

Major lashes out over tax after jobless toll leaps

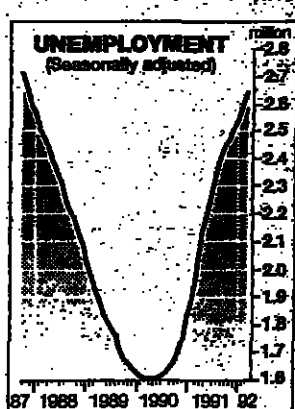
BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE leaders of the two main parties intensified their political attacks yesterday as John Major, under pressure over the latest rise in unemployment, launched his most ferocious condemnation of Labour's tax plans.

The prime minister denounced Labour's policies as a "fast spreading cancer" after a day in which he had to be rescued by police when he was jostled by angry demonstrators in Bolton.

The employment department figures showed that the number of jobless is now the highest since September 1987. Last month the figure rose to 2,647,300, or 9.4 per cent of the British workforce. The figure has increased steadily for 22 months and Britain now has the third highest jobless rate in the European Community.

The Conservative heartlands of the South-East, the



South-West, and the industrially important West Midlands, saw the sharpest rises. The South-East, which escaped the worst of last recession, reported unemployment at 10 per cent.

Since unemployment began rising in May 1990, well over a million people have lost their jobs. The professional, seasonal, adjusted figures showed an increase of 40,200 in the number of unemployed last month, after a rise of almost 60,000 in January. The unadjusted unemployment data showed an increase of 36,623 last month to 2,710,487, or 9.6 per cent.

Opposition politicians seized on the figures to lambast the government's economic record. Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said they were "proof again of the terrible price that Britain is having to pay for a do-nothing Tory government. It is also evidence of the need for Britain to elect a Labour government that will get our country working again."

The government, he said, was responding only "with smugness and with excuses which is unforgivable". He told a rally at the Birmingham convention centre last night that while the Tories claimed they had the foundations for recovery, the truth is "they have dug the most ex-

cessive hole in history". Mr Kinnock pledged that Labour would "ignite recovery and lift the pall of recession".

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said: "The 40,000 extra people who have been thrown out of work are what Norman Lamont calls a price well worth paying. Labour's first task would be to stop unemployment rising so fast, and start relentless pressure to bring it down month by month."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, condemned the Conservatives' complacency and economic mismanagement and attacked Labour as a "pathetic, timid and whimpering thing". He said neither party offered the unemployed what they needed — hope.

Mr Major described the rise in unemployment as disappointing, but said there were clear signs of recovery. "I understand the difficulties for people when they face job losses but I think there are a number of very hopeful signs now."

Ministers pointed out that unemployment was not increasing as fast as it had been a year ago. Over the past six months unemployment has been rising by an average of 37,500 a month compared with a monthly increase of 72,800 during the previous six months to August 1991.

They were anxious to switch attention today to the latest inflation figures. Although ministers believe they might show inflation rising from 4.1 to 4.2 per cent, they think the figures are a signal that recovery is on the way. The Conservatives also launched their second wave of attacks on Labour's tax proposals.

The prime minister told a rally at Manchester international airport last night "they have dug the most ex-

Continued on page 20, col 1

Prime minister tries anti-Brussels tack

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

HOPING to garner the votes of Britons suspicious of the European Community, John Major, the prime minister, has revealed in an interview for *The Times* his growing scepticism over the single European currency.

Mr Major says he is "very dubious" whether the circumstances will be right for its introduction within the decade. He said that, if the EC falls to wait for the right economic circumstances to press on with introduction of a single currency, it could be "the most damaging prospect for Europe we have yet seen", causing economic and social disruption.

If the single currency went ahead without the EC nations meeting the full convergence terms, he says, "it would ensure lopsided development. It would cause a structural collapse in asset values in weaker parts of the Community. It would perhaps cause mass migration from the weaker states in the Community to the stronger states. It would lead to dramatic demands for cross-border flows of money to support the weaker countries."

Asked if his promise to put Britain at the heart of Europe will be realised more fully if

he is re-elected with his own mandate, Mr Major lined up with Euro-sceptics, saying: "A good European is not the man who accepts everything suggested by the EC partners or by the Commission. A good European often says no, just as I said no at Maastricht to the Social Chapter... I am not an advocate of a United States of Europe. I am an advocate of a successful Europe of nation states."

Mr Major also disclosed that he would not hesitate to involve Britain in military action against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq during the election campaign.

Asked if he would contemplate authorising military action during the campaign, either against Saddam or President Gaddafi of Libya, he replied: "Yes, if I thought it the right thing to do." "Saddam Hussein still has the capacity to make nuclear weapons. He will have to surrender that capacity. The United Nations require it and we and the Americans and the French will make absolutely sure that he cannot proceed with that, whatever it takes."

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US bomb plan, page 15

Leading breast implant firm to halt production

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN AMERICAN company that leads the world in the manufacture of controversial silicone breast implants is expected to halt production and pull out of the business. Instead, Dow Corning is believed to be planning to set up a \$10 million fund for research into breast-implantation safety.

The company will also agree in some cases to pay \$1,200 (about £650) to women who want their implants removed but cannot afford the operation, according to sources in Washington.

The production and sale of silicone breast implants — the most popular form of breast enlargement — was controversially stopped in America in

January after concerns were raised over their safety. In particular, fears were expressed over an alleged tendency for them to rupture and leak.

Last month, an advisory panel of the US Food and Drug Administration voted to recommend restricting access to the devices. It also demanded further research into their safety. The panel is expected to take a more concrete stance on April 20.

About a million American women have undergone breast-implant surgery. Dow Corning, a joint venture between Dow Chemicals and Corning Inc, was a pioneer in the manufacture of the devices, the sale of which account for about 1 per cent of the company's revenue, and is the main supplier of implants to British

hospital and clinics. Other manufacturers, such as Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, have pulled out of the business.

The order to American surgeons to stop using the implants until new information had been thoroughly evaluated caused dismay among some British surgeons. Most are reported to be confident that silicone implants are safe and some criticised the hysteria caused over problems that experts in the UK could not understand. At the height of the scare, the National Hospital for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, suspended the operations. But the self-imposed ban was lifted by the country's biggest plastic surgery hospital and its director, Mr John Terry, advised

women waiting for the £2,500 operation to go ahead if they felt it would improve the quality of their lives.

Dr Kenneth Calman, the Department of Health's Chief Medical Officer, says that on the known evidence there was no reason for surgeons to stop using them. Dr Calman sent a letter to all doctors and directors of public health in January stating there was no reason to stop silicone breast implants in Britain. In spite of the Americans' stance, Some 100,000 women in Britain are believed to have had implants. Just over 5,000 such operations are performed each year, 60 per cent of them on patients who have had surgery for breast cancer and 40 per cent for cosmetic reasons.

The Queen announces negotiations for formal separation

JULIAN HERBERT



The Duchess of York at her eldest daughter's nursery school yesterday

Acrimony at palace as Yorks split

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ON OTHER PAGES

BUCKINGHAM Palace yesterday ended two days of fevered speculation by formally announcing that lawyers had begun negotiations to end the six-year marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York. The statement confirmed what had been rumoured for months and chronicled in detail in some newspapers this week — that the couple are to seek a formal separation.

In its manner and wording, the statement gave every indication that there is already a considerable degree of acrimony between the duchess and the palace establishment. In contrast to the usual bland and neutral official announcements on such occasions, the statement made it abundantly clear that it was the duchess who had initiated the legal proceedings, and correspondents being briefed on the announcement were left in no doubt by palace officials that they believed she had consulted professional public relations consultants to place her side of the story in the *Daily Mail*, where it has appeared in some detail.

The Queen authorised the announcement at noon yesterday to clarify the situation in view of intense media speculation, which she regarded as especially undesirable in the midst of a general election campaign. The statement said: "Last week, lawyers acting for the Duchess of York initiated discussions about a formal separation from the duke and duchess. These discussions are not yet complete and nothing more will be said until they are. The Queen hopes that the media will spare the Duke and Duchess of York and their children any intrusion."

From the moment of yesterday's announcement, all public engagements by the duchess were cancelled. Her diary, already under attack for the sparsity of its entries, contained only three engagements: a Tate Gallery reception next Tuesday, an awards ceremony at the Science Museum on April 14, and a visit to Merseyside on April 18. The Queen was said to be greatly saddened at the second marriage among her children to run into apparently irreconcilable difficulties. Her permission for a legal

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Sadly ever after L&T, page 1

separation, or even for a divorce, is not constitutionally necessary, but custom dictates that she is always consulted and her advice obeyed, as has been the case on this occasion. Coincidentally, the news was confirmed yesterday on the sixth anniversary of the then Prince Andrew's engagement to Sarah Ferguson, a day on which they professed themselves "over the moon".

Since then the idyll has gone distinctly sour, as evidenced by the manner of yesterday's announcement. Paul Reynolds, BBC radio diplomatic correspondent, told listeners to Radio 4's *The World At One* after a palace briefing: "The knives are out for Fergie at the palace. They are claiming she has been employing a public relations firm to brief the *Daily Mail*, which is the source of the story."

"They even name the firm and the gentleman concerned, and they are getting their briefing in now in retaliation. I have rarely heard palace officials speak in such terms about someone. They are talking about her unsuitability for public life, royal life — her behaviour in being photographed in *Hello!* magazine, fooling around, putting paper bags over her head on an aircraft while she

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GPs want end to night calls

BY JOHN VINCENT

MOST family doctors want to end their commitment to day and night visits to patients, according to a survey. A half say that patients should pay for some, or all, home visits out of hours.

The questionnaire survey, returned by 25,000 of 35,000 GPs, confirms that the old medical ethos that the job comes first and the family second has disappeared, in line with wider social changes in working life.

The survey, by the BMA, also shows that most GPs remain sceptical about the benefits of fundholding, in which larger practices can apply to hold a budget allowing them to select the hospital services they judge most appropriate for their patients, under the NHS reforms.

GPs reject night calls, page 3

Clinton goes clear as Tsongas quits

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

PAUL Tsongas withdrew from the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination yesterday, leaving the field virtually clear for Bill Clinton to take on President Bush in November.

After heavy defeats in Illinois and Michigan this week, Mr Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator, was set to tell supporters in Boston that he could no longer raise the money to stay in the race.

Close aides to Mr Clinton, the governor of Arkansas, who left the state yesterday after a brief break from the campaign, said that he was "very happy" at the news and would now be turning his fire full time on Mr Bush. The only other Democratic contender is Jerry Brown, the former governor of California, whose unorthodox style is more that of a guerrilla sniper than of a full adversary. Mr

Tsongas is likely to be remembered as the man who challenged Mr Bush when he looked unbeatable as a result of the Gulf war. He also set a new Democratic agenda, preaching financial austerity and social liberalism to voters who were not used to hearing gay rights and Wall Street rights promoted by the same person.

Although his organisation often seemed more suited to a barefoot prophet than a would-be president of the United States, he had remained the hope of party moderates and the many who believe that Mr Clinton's personal problems make him unelectable.

After a surprise victory in New Hampshire in February, the Tsongas campaign had to become more like its rivals, more organised and more

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ELECTION 92

PARKER'S PLEA



Public and private investment are needed to bring Britain out of recession, the former BR chairman Sir Peter Parker and 11 Liberal Democrat businessmen say in a letter to *The Times*.

The party would invest to get the economy moving and spend heavily on education and training, even at the cost of 1p on income tax, the letter says. It also calls for stability in government, adding: "That means electoral reform."

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POLLSTER'S PROGRESS



The curtains, the washing line and the car in the drive can determine whether a householder is opinion poll material. Peter Barnard meets the woman from Mori and finds a class act

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Duke and Duchess of York's formal separation is likely to follow quickly to avoid fuelling unwanted publicity

Headstrong outsider who clashed with palace

THE fairytale marriage enacted in Westminster Abbey on July 23, 1986, with all the pomp and ceremony that only the British can pull from the top drawer, and before a worldwide television audience of 500 million dabbling the mist of romantic tears from their eyes, has taken less than six years to turn sour. Even Catherine of Aragon lasted three times as long, and she was only the first of six.

But fairytale marriages are only skin deep, if that. The Duchess of York, used to a free-wheeling and unfettered life, was never able fully to come to terms with the strictures and unwritten codes that govern life in the royal circle. She was headstrong, and determined that her lifestyle as a single woman should not be entirely abandoned. Some saw her as a breath of fresh air in a fetid environment which, for all its efforts at modernisation, can still be a hermetic world where old values still reign. Inevitably, she set herself on a collision course with the palace establishment, among whom she will now find few supporters.

That she has bridled at the strictures, to the extent that she lost all patience, is evident from the fact that the separation is at her initiative, and that she employed public relations advisers to ensure that her side of the story was fed to the press before the palace's own publicity machine could take over. The manner is already showing signs of acrimony.

Yesterday, the palace appeared to be fighting back. The bald statement admitting at last what had been known to the popular press for two days stated specifically that legal discussions were taking place at the duchess's instigation. More usual style is to keep any such announcements very strictly neutral, and brief.

Since the beginning of this year, the duchess has all but given up her public engagements, carrying out only a handful and saying that she wished to spend more time with her family. She has performed only three public duties this year.

Her portfolio of patronages, including such organisations as Action Research for the Crippled Child, is small compared with those of Princess of Wales or the Princess Royal, and in the league table of royal workload she compares unfavourably with either. In 1991, she carried out a total of 170 engagements, compared with 455 by the Queen, 258 by the Princess of Wales and 504 by the Princess Royal.

In the same year, the Duke of York carried out only 83 public engagements, but he can be excused on the grounds that he is a full-time naval officer whose work has kept him not only busy, but often at sea for long periods.

In 1990, the duchess's record of public engagements fell to 85, fewer even than the Queen Mother, while the Queen did 476, the Princess of Wales 234, and the ever-busy Princess Royal 449. It should be said in her defence, however, that, for a considerable part of 1990, the duchess was pregnant with Princess Eugenie.

What is perhaps more telling is the fact that the duke and duchess have been seen together in public less and less. Last year they appeared together at only nine official functions.

A formal deed of separation is likely to be drawn up quickly and without complication because of the overriding need to avoid fuelling publicity or to have the couple drawn into disputes which would have to be resolved in the courts. Formal separation, which would offer the couple

Alan Hamilton charts the collision course taken by the Duchess of York which ended with the announcement that had been rumoured for days

the option of divorce after two years, would cover maintenance and arrangements for seeing the children. In this case, it is also certain to include a condition that the parties maintain an absolute confidentiality on details of their marriage. Any arrangement is likely to specify that the couple's two children continue to reside with their mother, but with their father having unlimited contact.

The amount of maintenance will no doubt be based on the principle enshrined in the 1984 Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act, of the duchess's "reasonable requirements" in the light of what is available.

Both partners came to the marriage with what is politely called a past: he with assorted actresses — a long-standing royal prerogative — and she with the Old Etonian skier Kim Smith-Bingham and the motor racing manager Paddy McNally. She was perceived as fun-loving but, above all, loving, he as a bit of a dashing blade who had won his spurs on active service in the Falklands campaign.

Neither appeared over-endowed with intellect, maturity or dignity at the tender age of 26, although the Falklands experience undoubtedly had a sobering effect. They were seen as a foil of jollity to the earnest Prince of Wales and his shy, reserved wife, and she was much admired for her explosion of Titianesque hair.



Wyatt: shared holiday with the duchess

On their first overseas tour together, to Canada in 1987, they were friendly, outgoing, but somehow gauche. He, rather overweight and wrapped in a thick dark overcoat, looked at times like a heavy who had come to collect the rent. She wore a small Canadian flag as a hairpin, and amused the crowds by pulling funny faces. They stepped on their first public relations mine when they accepted gifts of fur coats, to the ire of the wild animal lobby.

They joked and wisecracked at public dinners, much as they had done at the dinner table over which they are said to have first met by throwing profiteroles at each other, behaviour which the aristocracy get away with by calling it high spirits, but which in the rest of us would be called hoodlumism.

The image began to slip seriously. Although clearly loving her position so close to the fount of honour, she showed less than total awareness that it brought the obligation of a certain code of behaviour. The tabloids began to call her "Freddie Fergie".

At about the same time, the American press invented for her the sobriquet "Duchess Doltine" because of the perceived lightness of her workload. She spent long periods on the ski slopes of Switzer-

land, and made a long trip to Australia, leaving her baby daughter behind, to be reunited with her husband during one of his lengthy tours of duty at sea. People in the duchess's position cannot, of course, ever win the media battle. She was criticised for going; doubtless she would have been equally chastised had she not gone. But the early honeymoon she enjoyed with press and public faded as fast as a photograph left in the sun.

Somehow, the Yorks came to be seen as the living epitome of bad taste. Their £5 million home at Sunninghill Park, near Windsor, designed by the Edinburgh architectural partnership Dunbar-Nasmith but with considerable input from their clients, was widely regarded as spectacularly naff and variously likened to a burger restaurant, a supermarket, or the ranch in the television series *Dallas*. It rapidly became known as *Southport*.

The stylistic nadir was plumbed when the duchess, in return, it is said, for a very fat fee — allowed herself and family to be interviewed and photographed in the aforementioned monstrosity by *Hellor!* magazine, the hugely successful Anglo-Spanish production whose appeal is built on never saying anything nasty about its subjects, but coating them instead in thick layers of sugar.

For all their apparent cultural philistinism, the couple appeared to dote on their two young daughters, but the duchess never seemed able fully to come to terms with her husband's long absences on naval duty, a problem which afflicts many a service wife. She amused herself, and attempted to help to pay for the lifestyle to which she had become accustomed, by writing two children's books about Budgie the helicopter.

Budgie sold well, but in other ways he was an albatross. Like Princess Michael of Kent in her literary efforts, the duchess was accused of plagiarism, and there was even greater embarrassment when it was claimed that 90 per cent of the royalties, which were supposed to go directly to charity, were being kept by the duchess.

To while away the long periods of her husband's absence, she determinedly kept up her old lifestyle of a single Sloane with a giddy whirl of parties, dinners and balls. The style did not greatly suit the duke, and the duchess often found herself on the social round without him. Inevitably, she attracted the attentions of other escorts, and she appeared unwilling in any way to give up the circles she mixed in before her marriage. She remained on close terms with, among others, Mr McNally.

Matters came to a head late last year when a cleaner working in a Mayfair apartment that had been occupied by Steve Wyatt, a tall, handsome Texan and heir to an oil fortune, found a packet of photographs. They showed Mr Wyatt and the duchess on holiday together in Morocco; they were handed to the police, but not before newspapers had been made fully aware of them.

The duke was reportedly furious, and by Christmas the couple were before the Queen at Sandringham talking of



Wife and mother: announcing the engagement, and on holiday in Switzerland with her daughters



Growing into the job: aged three, as a bridesmaid for her sister, and the day after her engagement



separation. She seems to have persuaded them not to act in haste, but by this week any grounds for a reconciliation had still not been found. There has at no time been any suggestion of impropriety on the part of the duchess, only an unwillingness to recognise that the strange unnatural world she gladly married into, with its privilege and glamour, also has an obverse which demands a large degree of sacrifice.

That sacrifice clearly does not come easily to those who enter the unreality of the royal family from the real world outside, and the strains of marriage between prince and commoner can be nothing less than extremely testing. Two of the Queen's children have now suffered the pain of separation: her other married son exists in a marriage which is the subject of constant speculation, and which frequently appears from the outside to be strained and semi-detached.

Yet the Princess of Wales

appears to cope, and to play her public role with an increasing ease coupled with dignity. The public love affair with her is still very much alive. And the Queen herself has remained steadfastly married for more than 44 years. Her husband, being a scion of the Greek royal family, would have had more than an inkling of what he was letting himself in for, and has always had the wit to know what is required of him.

For the mere commoner, it is a lesson to be learned only with difficulty. If yesterday's separation proceeds to divorce, the party most affected will be the duchess. She will automatically cease to be a member of the royal family, and will lose the title "Her Royal Highness", which she currently enjoys from marriage to a prince of the blood royal.

There are few precedents for such a situation, as in recent times no immediate male member of the royal family has been divorced. The

last to attempt it was George IV, who could not stand the sight of Queen Caroline and much preferred the company of Mrs Fitzherbert, but his plan failed when Parliament threw out the bill.

According to David Williamson, editor of *Debut's Peerage*, divorce would result in the reduction of the duchess's title to "Sarah, Duchess of York", just like any other divorced duchess, of which there are many. There were, in the recent past, four Duchesses of Westminster alive at the same time. Were the Duke of York to remarry, his new wife would take over the title Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York.

Were the duchess to remarry, she would lose all her previous titles and take instead the name or title of her new husband.

Separation, and any subsequent divorce, does not alter the constitutional position of the Duke of York, or of the couple's two children, Princess Beatrice and Princess

Eugenie. The duke, being the Queen's second son, was at one time second in line to the throne after the Prince of Wales. He is now fourth, although any possibility of his ascending the throne has been regarded as remote since the birth of the Prince and Princess of Wales's two sons, Prince William and Prince Henry, who now occupy second and third positions.

When the previous Duke and Duchess of York married in 1923, they too regarded the possibility of ascending the throne as exceedingly unlikely. The duke was King George V's second son, and the first son, although at the time unmarried, would undoubtedly in time have children and ascend the throne, leaving the Yorks to a peaceful private life as minor royals. But history was unkind: the duke's elder brother, still unmarried, ascended the throne as Edward VIII and promptly descended it again, causing the Yorks to be

dragged unwillingly to office as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Whatever the future marital situation of their parents, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie remain fifth and sixth in line to the throne, a position which, for them, is likely to remain somewhat academic. The only possible scenario that might involve the Yorks would be one in which both the Queen and the Prince of Wales died or were otherwise rendered unfit for office before the majority of Prince William; in such a situation, the Duke of York could, in theory, be invited to act as regent until the young prince came of age.

Royal attitudes to marriage have come a long way since the early years of the Queen's reign, when she refused her sister, Princess Margaret, permission to marry a divorced man, Group Captain Peter Townsend. The Queen's principal adviser in the matter was the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, whose opposition to the marriage stemmed largely from the sovereign's position as supreme governor of the Church of England. Marriage to a divorcee by one so close to the church's fount of earthly power was regarded in those far-off 1950s as intolerable. The archbishop's view was endorsed by the cabinet and by the then prime minister, Anthony Eden.

Marriage and divorce within the royal family are governed not only by the monarch's moral position as head of the established church, but by the more precise provisions of the Royal Marriages Act of 1772, under which all lineal descendants of George II are required to seek the sovereign's permission to initiate a marriage. The act is less specific on the question of divorce, but custom and practice dictates that the couple seek the Queen's permission in the same way that they would if they wished to marry.

The act was passed at the insistence of George III when he discovered that his younger brother, the Duke of Cumberland, had formed what the king regarded as a highly unsuitable union with the widow of a commoner.

Royal attitudes were obliged to change to keep pace with the attitudes and actions of society at large. Few eyebrows were raised when, in 1960, Princess Margaret married a commoner, Antony Armstrong-Jones; when that union finally fell



Out of adversity: the Duchess of York's crest

apart after 16 years, the Queen, although obviously saddened, felt that she had no option but to permit the couple to divorce. One stipulation made by the Queen to her sister was that the couple should wait two years after their separation before initiating the irrevocable finality of legal proceedings. The cooling-off period was intended to allow every possibility of a reconciliation, and to avoid any suggestion of unseemly haste and the attendant bad publicity it would attract.

When the Snowdens finally divorced in 1978 they did so with minimal fuss or difficulty. When the marriage of Captain Mark Phillips and the Princess Royal also broke down, the Queen again insisted on a two-year wait before the start of any divorce proceedings, although present-day law would enable them to divorce within six months of separation if they wished. A similar two-year wait will undoubtedly be imposed on the Duke and Duchess of York.

What happens to the Duchess of York's income after separation and possible subsequent divorce is very much a matter for lawyers to determine, and depends too on whether she continues to undertake any public duties.

The Civil List allowance is paid to the duke, although the secretary, equerry, office Continued on page 3, col 4

Controversy causes a big splash among press

WHILE the British media breathed a huge sigh of relief that the rumours had been true after all, elsewhere the press, especially in Europe, yesterday gloried in the demise of yet another royal couple.

The troubles of the Yorks were not enough to satisfy the European appetite for royal scandal. The marital troubles of Princess Margaret, the Princess Royal and the Prince and Princess of Wales were all included on front pages.

Italian papers revelled in the story even going as far as to describe the separation as divorce. "The fairytale of Sarah and Andrew finishes in divorce," said the leading *Corriere della Sera* newspaper on its front page. "Scandal at the Court," said *La Repubblica* of Rome. *La Stampa* of Turin confined its story to an inside page with the headline "Sarah and Andrew - over to the lawyers" and a subsidiary headline saying "they divorce out of jealousy" while *Il Messaggero* of Rome appeared to have an exclusive, quoting the duchess as saying: "Instead of staying with me he prefers his helicopter."

"New divorce in the British Royal Family" said a headline in *El Pais*, Spain's

The world's press has been reeling in the details of another royal scandal, reports Ray Clancy

leading newspaper which also said that the story had overtaken the election as the biggest news of the day in Britain. The Barcelona-based *El Periódico*'s main headline said: "Fergie's Separation Shakes Buckingham". The paper carried a 1987 photograph of the couple rowing a boat, accompanied by the caption: "Now they are rowing separately".

In France, where the republican population hunger after intimate details of other nations' royal families, *France-Soir*, the Parisian daily, declared: "Sarah and Andrew: the story of a dead love" and went on to say in a front page article that the Queen is dogged by troubles caused by "the amorous fiascos of her turbulent family".

It lists the breakdown of royal relationships and tells readers that the Prince and Princess of Wales have separate bedrooms and Prince Edward has neither a woman in his life nor a prop-



Headline news: "Fergie & Andy Finished! — She gets the children" screams German tabloid *Bild*

er job. *France-Soir* also catalogued how the duchess "lost 20 kilos to make the English love her and then came the discovery of 120 photos," referring to the photographs found by a cleaner in the London flat that used to be rented by US oilman Steve Wyatt.

There is considerable sympathy for the Duchess in France, where much of the press coverage revolves around her harsh treatment by the British tabloids.

The European press does not hesitate to speculate about the friendship between the Duchess of York and Steve Wyatt, the Texan businessman, as a cause of

the marriage breakdown. In the Belgian daily, *Le Soir*, there was a photograph of the duchess with Mr Wyatt, describing her "adventure" with him and suggesting that this was the decisive factor.

El Mundo in Spain also suggested a romance with the Texan had been the final reason for the separation and described the duke being involved in a jealous scene. "Prince Andrew lost his nerve recently, during a dinner at Sunninghill — the residence of the Yorks, near Windsor — when the name of Steve Wyatt was mentioned. The prince abandoned the dining room, slamming the

door behind him," the article said.

The broadsheets and television in Germany virtually ignored the story but the German tabloid press went wild. "Fergie & Andy Finished!" was the main headline on the front page of the mass circulation *Bild* which also quoted a psychologist as saying that the couple should not have married because the duchess was "far too temperamental for life in a golden cage". *Express* in Cologne called the duchess a "scandal noodle".

In Canada, where the couple were warmly welcomed on their first major overseas tour shortly after their marriage, it was a case of "All Eyes on Fergie" as the *Ottawa Sun* put it.

In the United States newspapers carried denials from Mr Wyatt that there had been any romance with the duchess. *USA Today* described the duchess as a "tempestuous, controversial redhead," who is "walking out on her naval officer husband".

The *New York Daily Post*, describes the royal family as keeping their stiff upper lips firmly shut. "Andy, Fergie duke the question" the paper's headline said in true brash American style.

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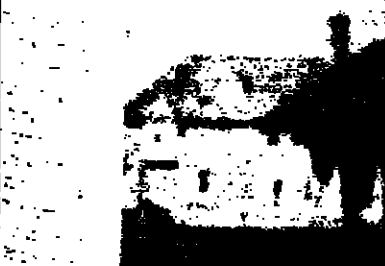
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GPS want night call charge for

Cities consider central teams

Separation of Duke and Duchess of York prominent lawyers over details of separation



Out of adversity: the Duchess of York's crest

apart after 16 years, the Queen, although obviously saddened, felt that she had no option but to permit the couple to divorce. One stipulation made by the Queen to her sister was that the couple should wait two years after their separation before initiating the irrevocable finality of legal proceedings. The cooling-off period was intended to allow every possibility of a reconciliation, and to avoid any suggestion of unseemly haste and the attendant bad publicity it would attract.

When the Snowdens finally divorced in 1978 they did so with minimal fuss or difficulty. When the marriage of Captain Mark Phillips and the Princess Royal also broke down, the Queen again insisted on a two-year wait before the start of any divorce proceedings, although present-day law would enable them to divorce within six months of separation if they wished. A similar two-year wait will undoubtedly be imposed on the Duke and Duchess of York.

What happens to the Duchess of York's income after separation and possible subsequent divorce is very much a matter for lawyers to determine, and depends too on whether she continues to undertake any public duties.

The Civil List allowance is paid to the duke, although the secretary, equerry, office Continued on page 3, col 4

Yorks to separate, page 1 Split that divided nation, and Diary, page 16 Leading article, page 17 Valerie Grove L&T section, page 1

GPs want to drop night calls and charge for visits

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MOST family doctors want to end their commitment to be available to their patients day and night, according to a nationwide survey. A half say that patients should pay for some, or all, home visits out of hours.

The survey, by the British Medical Association, also shows that most GPs remain sceptical about the benefits of fundholding, in which larger practices can apply to hold a budget allowing them to select the hospital services they judge most appropriate for their patients, under the NHS reforms.

The questionnaire survey, returned by 25,000 of 35,000 GPs, confirms that the old medical ethos that the job comes first and the family second has disappeared, in line with wider social changes

in working life. Nearly three quarters said that they would like to opt out of their 24-hour responsibility.

To deal with patients who need treatment at night, four out of five favoured primary care emergency centres, to which most patients would have to travel, but just over half said that they would be prepared to join a national health service or privately organised rota to visit patients at home.

Nearly half of those who responded to the survey, the largest conducted by the BMA, believe that some or all patients should pay a fee for a home visit during normal hours. More than a quarter want to charge for surgery consultations, as dentists do.

The survey shows that support for fundholding has dou-

bled, from 10 to 20 per cent, since the introduction of the scheme. But 62 per cent of GPs still say they are opposed — down from 76 per cent.

Interpretation of the findings is complicated by the fact that only larger practices with more than 7,000 patients are eligible to become fundholders. Smaller practices may be more likely to oppose the scheme. But among the first wave of fundholders with most experience of the scheme, 75 per cent are in favour.

Philip Ballard, a first-wave fundholder in an eight-partner practice in Tamworth, Staffordshire, said: "A lot of the opposition is fear of the unknown. It is an entirely new concept. We were flying by the seat of our pants."

Communication with hospital consultants had been "transformed" since introduction of the scheme in Tamworth. Dr Ballard said: "We have cut waiting times in out-patients, saved the ophthalmology service and got a pathology service that is second to none. These are benefits shared by all GPs in the town, not just fundholders."

Opposition is not confined to those denied their own budget. Among the 4,400 GPs applying to become fundholders in the third wave, 40 per cent say that they are against the scheme, according to the survey, suggesting that many have decided to support it on pragmatic grounds, fearing that otherwise their patients will lose out.

Mark Wright, a first-wave fundholder in a six-partner practice in Brighton, said: "We took a pragmatic view that it was going to be the only way forward, and if we didn't go along with it, we would go down the drain."

The scheme had been quite successful in the first year but the government must "find a way of extending the advantages to small practices or they will undoubtedly be disadvantaged".

Health
L&T section, pages 5-6

Cities consider central teams

ALTERNATIVE means of providing night cover for patients, to relieve the burden on GPs, are being considered in two cities (Jeremy Laurance writes).

In Leicester, plans have been drawn up for a night assessment centre, attached to the accident and emergency department of the district hospital, to be staffed by GPs. A similar scheme is being considered in Chichester, staffed by 30 to 40 GPs. Transport may be provided to bring patients to the centre.

Most GPs share their night work in a rota with a small number of partners or contract it out to a deputising service which employs doctors full-time. But doctors say that a disturbed night caused by one patient means 30 to 40 patients get less good care the next day.

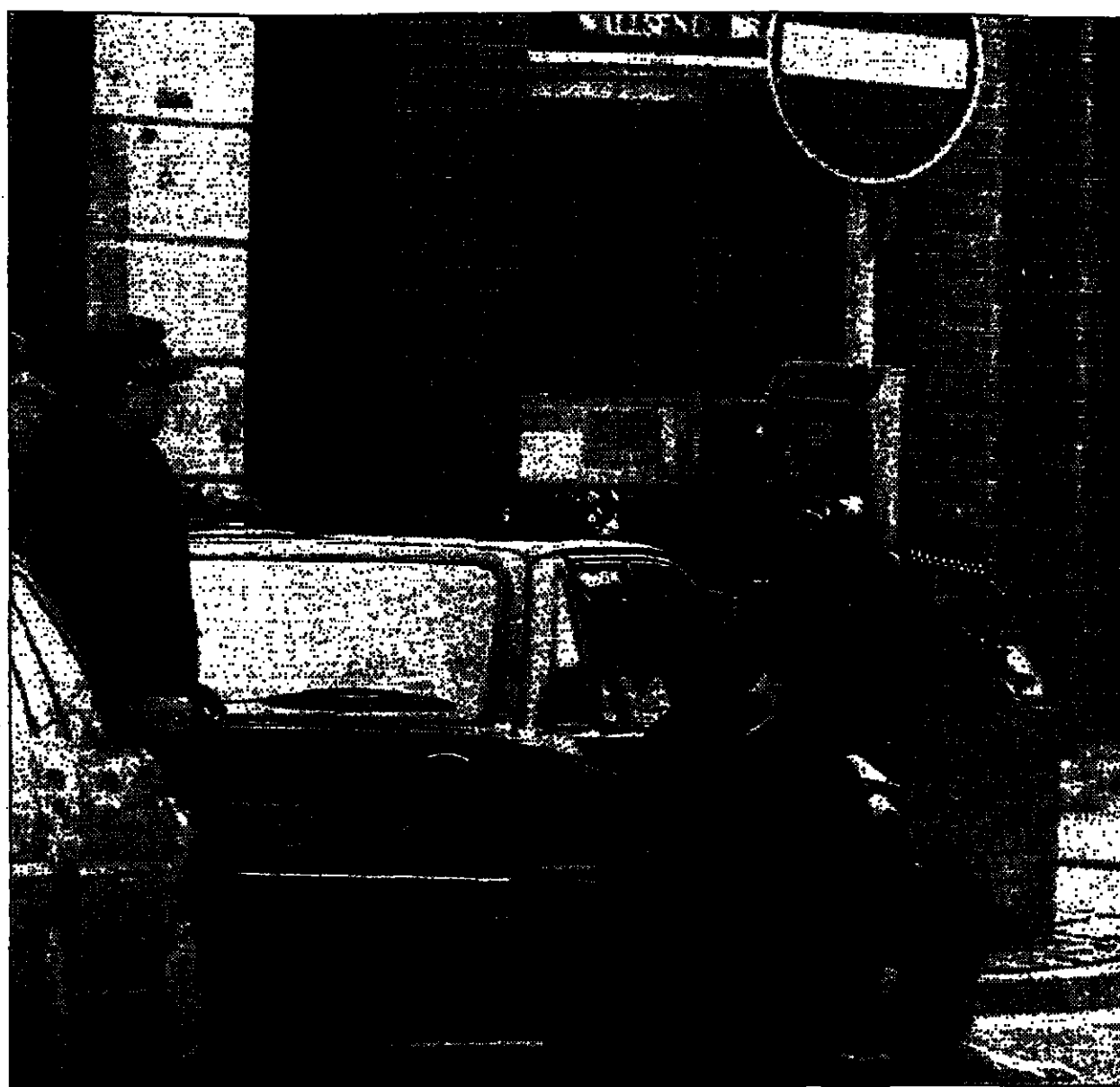
Out of hours cover has become a cause of increasing irritation as GPs have seen colleagues in other professions enjoying more leisure. Experts suggest that it is the sense of not being in control

while waiting for calls that doctors find most burdensome, rather than the extra work involved.

In the United States, treatment at night is available only to those attending the emergency rooms of hospitals. In Europe, doctors still make night visits. In over-doctored countries such as Belgium and Germany where competition for patients is intense, home visits at all hours by the patient's personal physician are the rule.

In Scandinavia, doctors are organised in large rotas to provide night cover on an occasional basis over a wide area. Austria operates a similar scheme and provides the doctors with cars with flashing lights.

The BMA said that most doctors in Britain are on call at least one weekend in four and one weekday night a week. "Most patients don't realise that when their GP has been out all night attending to patients, he or she does not get the next day off to recover," a spokesman said.



Gun vigil: an armed policeman running across the high street at Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, during a siege at a Lloyds bank branch.

Armed officers laid siege to the building after a tip-off that three

masked men were in the area before it opened. When police burst in after a five-hour vigil, they found the building empty. A search of a warehouse next door also proved fruitless.

The operation brought the town's

High Street West to a standstill for most of the day. Although police emphasised that there were no hostages, 14 special patrol group men, some with semi-automatic rifles, took up positions round the building.

Farmer cleared of wounding

Fig farmer Stan Wiles, accused of "crucifying" and torturing a thief, was acquitted by a jury yesterday.

His alleged victim, Malcolm Phillips, aged 32, broke down in the public gallery as the jury returned a "not guilty" verdict against Wiles of wounding with intent and of causing grievous bodily harm. York crown court was told that Wiles grabbed the thief after catching him stealing slates at his piggery in Bardby, North Yorkshire.

Phillips and two other men had already taken 500 slates. His face was "a mask of blood" after what the prosecution said was a "violent, sustained and merciless attack". Phillips suffered multiple fractures to the leg. One gang member said the attack lasted for more than two hours, the court was told.

Depot arrest

Police surrounded a food warehouse at a Royal Navy depot near Southampton yesterday after a man with two shotguns locked himself inside and refused to come out. Civilian staff were evacuated from the low security depot. A man aged 23 was arrested six hours later and is helping police with their enquiries. Police said that they were treating the matter as a domestic incident.

More addicts

The number of drug addicts rose by 17 per cent to almost 21,000 last year, according to Home Office statistics today. The figure includes 8,000 new addicts. While the overall proportion of addicts injecting drugs fell by 6 per cent to 59 per cent, the report said 900 were under 21 and would have started injecting after Aids information became available. A quarter of new addicts were female.

Armed siege

A man in his early twenties was questioned after a six-hour armed siege at a navy depot near Eastleigh, Hampshire. About 100 workers were evacuated as police marksmen went to a warehouse used for food storage, after a man carrying two shotguns was seen climbing over a back fence into the compound. Police said that the man was "helping with enquiries".

'Dead' man found alive by daughter

By EDWARD GORMAN

EVERYONE knew Michael Kirby was dead and buried. Wapping police had hauled his body from the Thames; his sister and a cousin had flown to London from Ireland to identify him, and other relatives had mourned at the funeral in Tipperary when he was buried in the family grave last November.

Last Sunday, however, everything was thrown into confusion when Mr Kirby was seen by his daughter as she said goodbye to a friend at Victoria station, London. Mr Kirby, aged 57, a labourer, set off from the vil-

lage of Kyle in Co Tipperary in February last year to visit relatives in London. He took up residence in a hostel but never made contact with his family. In October, his sister Kathy, concerned because he suffers from memory loss, contacted Scotland Yard to say he was missing.

Six days later, police at Wapping, east London, contacted her and showed her a photograph of a man drowned in the Thames at the time Mr Kirby arrived in London. She had no doubt it was her brother, and her identification was confirmed

by Pat Kirby, an Irish policeman and cousin of the missing man. The body was taken to Ireland for burial.

Police face the almost impossible task of discovering who is buried in the Tipperary churchyard. Peter Clements, officer in charge of identifying bodies found in the Thames, said he thought his colleagues were playing a prank. PC Clements, who met Mr Kirby earlier this week and found him to be "a quiet man, very much at peace with the world, looking extremely well", was "struck

by how much he looked like the man pulled from the river."

Mr Kirby and his daughter are now living together in Plumstead, southeast London. As to the man buried in Tipperary, the Kirby family has not requested that the body be exhumed and Scotland Yard has made no attempt to get it back. A Dublin police spokesman said: "I don't know if the body will be of any use to Scotland Yard, unless they can identify it. They might decide to leave it here and save a lot of expense."

Separation of Duke and Duchess of York

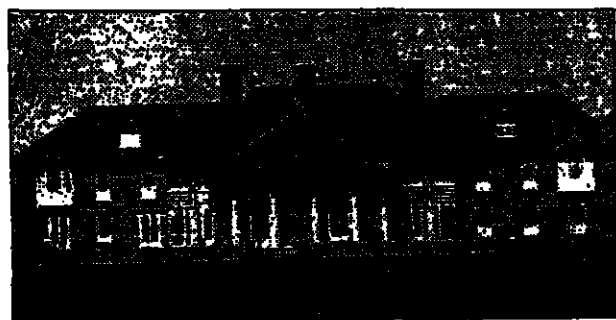
Eminent lawyers square up over details of settlement

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE parting of the Duke and Duchess of York will see two of London's most eminent lawyers locking horns as the details of the separation settlement are hammered out.

As with the two previous royal separations, Sir Matthew Farrer, the Queen's solicitor (who also acts for *The Sun*) has been called upon to act for the duke. He will face Charles Doughty, the leading London divorce lawyer from the firm Withers.

On both previous occasions of a royal separation, between the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips, and between Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, Sir Matthew faced Lord Goodman, who has made it clear that he no longer advises the Duchess of York. He said: "I wrote to the duchess some time ago, explaining why I was not acting for her any more." Press reports that this was over her controversial visit to the Florida Everglades Club in January, which discriminates in



Back at the ranch: Sunninghill Park, the couple's home, also known as *South York*

membership against Jews and blacks, were "entirely true", he added.

Like Farrer and Co, Withers combines old-fashioned gentility with top-notch, up-to-date expertise. It boasts one of London's leading family law departments, where financial and taxation issues are given special attention, as is mediation between parting couples. Chambers' guide to the top 1,000 law firms says that many of its family law cases "embrace complex international dimensions. All entail careful consideration of

financial issues and taxation consequences."

A lawyer who has dealt with Farrer and Co said of Sir Matthew: "He and the firm are everything you would expect from the Queen's solicitors. They are absolutely charming; the family law department is an excellent team."

Despite its somewhat genteel, old-fashioned image, Farrer has a tough litigation department. It is well-known not just for its work for the royal family but for *The Sun* and *Today*, which has led to potential conflicts of interest, with the newspapers occasionally finding themselves at the receiving end of Farrer-led litigation. In one case in 1987, the royal family instructed Farrer to take action over a breach of copyright when *The Sun* published a leaked private letter from the Duke of Edinburgh to the Royal Marines Commandant-General, concerning Prince Edward's resignation.

Diary, page 16

How the fairytale went sour

Continued from page 2

and three domestic staff it funds are shared by both. When the duke married, his allowance went up from £20,000 to £50,000. Because the Civil List was set in 1991 for a ten-year period, precise annual figures are no longer available, but the duke's allowance is now in the region of £250,000.

Civil List money is strictly for public duties, and a separate duchess no longer conducting a public life will have no claim on it. The duchess is said to be carrying a hefty overdraft. Major Ronald Ferguson, her father, farms 800 acres at Dummer, near Basingstoke, but enjoys no great inherited wealth.

When the Princess Royal and Captain Phillips decided to separate, the Queen is understood to have settled a considerable sum on Captain Phillips, no doubt on condition that he never went public on his marriage, but he was forced to leave the family home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, and live in a modest rented property on the estate.

One trapping of her royal life that the duchess will retain is her police bodyguard, not for herself, but for her children, as long as they remain in her care.

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Split that divided nation, and Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Valerie Grove
L&T section, page 1

Palace statement

A statement from Buckingham Palace on the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York, released yesterday, reads:

"In view of media speculation which is especially undesirable during a general election campaign, the Queen has authorized the following statement to be made:

"Last week, lawyers acting for the Duchess of York initiated discussions about a formal separation for the Duke and Duchess. These discussions are not yet complete, and nothing more will be said until they are."

"The Queen hopes that the media will spare the Duke and Duchess of York and their children any intrusion."

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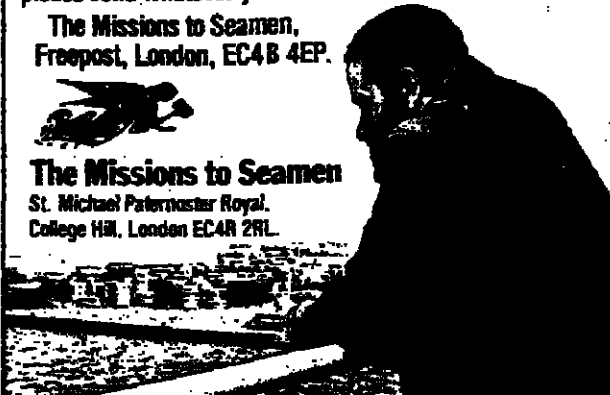
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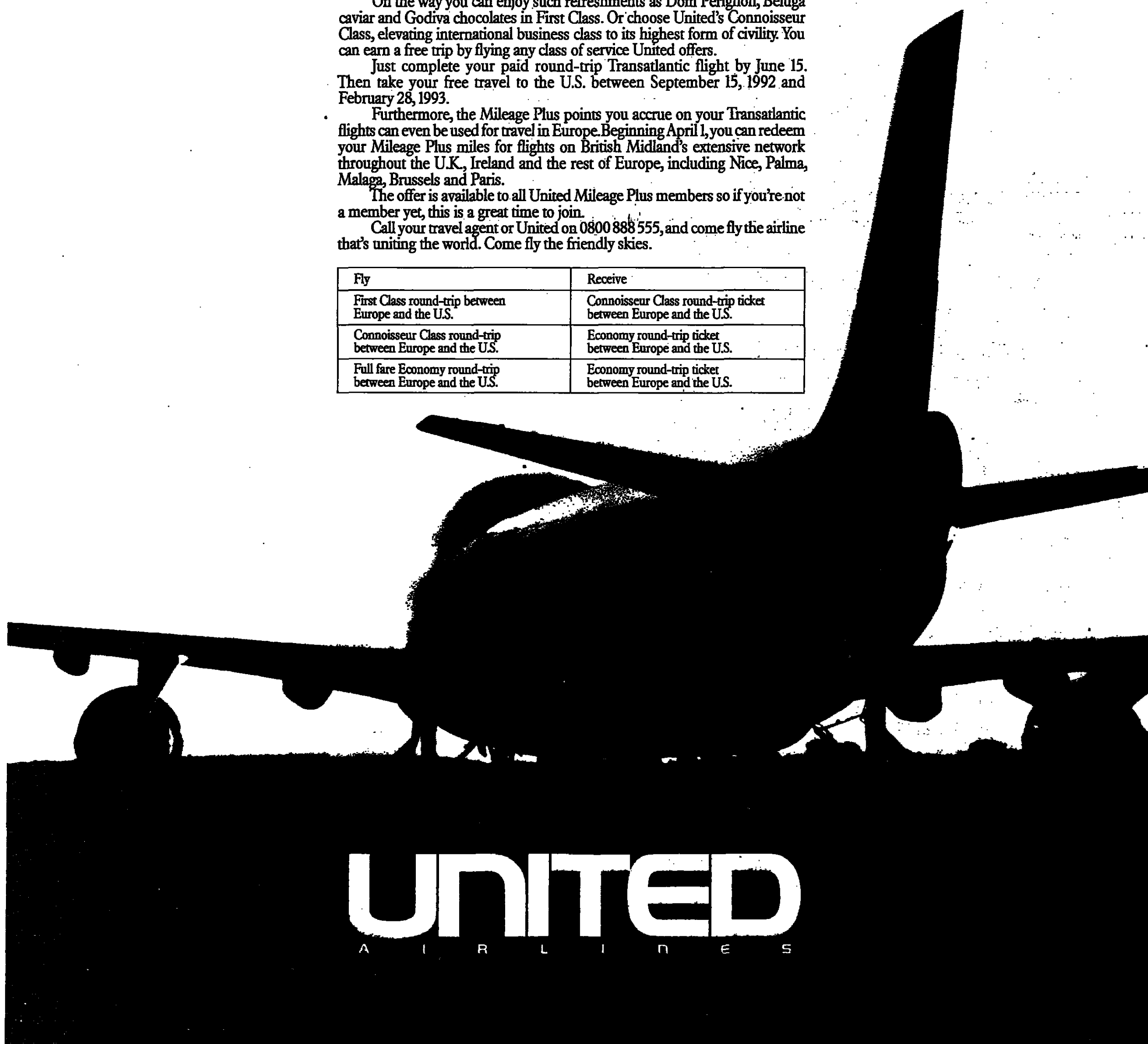
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Premiums rise up to 80 per cent

GTi car sales slide as insurance rates soar to curb losses

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

SALES of high performance GTi-style cars are collapsing under the weight of big increases in insurance premiums on owners. Auction houses report that owners are "dumping" the cars, which were once the most desirable trapping of the upwardly mobile classes.

Manufacturers say that sales of new GTi-style cars through their dealerships have as much as halved in the

past six months since the insurance industry moved to curb the high rate of theft and accidents.

High performance cars, particularly badged GTi and nicknamed "hot hatchbacks" by the motor trade, were one of the sales success stories of the Eighties as a new breed of wealthy young drivers bought models with more power and a stronger image.

At the height of the boom, sales of the Peugeot 205 GTi accounted for 20 per cent of all 205 sales in the UK. That figure is now 10 per cent, the company said yesterday.

Peugeot Talbot is offering £500 cash to drivers who buy a 205 GTi model before the end of this month to help them pay insurance bills which have risen as much as 80 per cent. Vauxhall is also considering an insurance help scheme to boost its new high-powered Astra GSi hatchback, after sales slumped from about 10 per cent of all sales in the Astra range to less than 6 per cent.

Higher value models have also been affected. Ford last month cut the price of its 150mph Sierra Cosworth by £6,000 to try to stimulate dwindling sales.

Vauxhall said yesterday: "Manufacturers are very conscious of the change in insurance rates and that is obviously having an effect on the way customers choose their cars. The cost of insurance has become a major item in buying this kind of high performance car."

Insurance companies are unlikely to change their attitude to cars which contrib-

ed significantly to road financial losses for the industry. GTi cars are likely to be stolen and more likely to be involved in accidents, say the insurers.

Norwich Union, Britain's biggest motor insurer, increased its premiums up to 80 per cent at the end of last year after suffering losses on its private car business of £69 million. Other big insurers followed the Norwich's lead.

The company said that models such as the Ford Escort RS Turbo, Volkswagen Golf GTi, MG Montego Turbo, and Peugeot 205 GTi were five times more likely to be stolen than the average car. The company's increases mean that a male motorist, aged 30, living in Luton has faced a rise in annual premiums from £549 to £955.

Tom Atkins, general manager of BRS Car Auctions, said that the effect of these increases was to force many drivers to replace their GTi cars with less powerful models. His auction centre at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, one of the largest in Britain, had seen a surge in cars offered for sale but a drop in prices of as much as 25 per cent, more than twice the rate of general decrease in car values caused by the recession.

He said: "We have seen this happen over the last three months with a number of vehicles two to three years old coming in. Drivers are simply dumping their cars because of the insurance."

Motoring, L&T section, page 7



Too hot to handle: Peugeot 205 GTi sales fall

Relatives say trawler sank after collision

By Tony Dawe

RELATIVES of the crew of the trawler Pescado, which sank mysteriously a year ago with the loss of six lives, said yesterday that they were convinced that it had been hit by another boat off the Cornish coast.

They made their claim after viewing several hours of video film of the wreck taken by a remote-controlled underwater camera. They said the film showed a gash in the Pescado's side that was big enough to sink the notoriously unstable vessel.

An investigation by *The Times* earlier this week disclosed that the Pescado had set sail without a safety certificate and adequate insurance in spite of warnings from two experienced seamen that she was unsound.

Jo Deakin, of Brixham, Devon, whose foster son Sean Kelly died in the tragedy, said: "The video shows a big dent below the waterline and several other marks. They need to be analysed to discover what caused them and the only way that can be done is by raising the Pescado from the seabed."

Mrs Deakin and Rita Capon, of Plymouth, whose daughter Jo-Ann also died, said that the film disproved a theory by the transport department's marine investigators that the vessel's dredging gear had snagged on an underwater obstruction, causing her to capsize.

The mothers produced further evidence in a film they made for the *Free for All* television programme shown on Channel 4 last night. They interviewed Mike Sullivan, who operated the camera, and said that there was damage to the deck that had most likely been caused by a crack to the vessel's side. An experienced trawler skipper said the damage could have been caused by another ship's bulbous bow below the waterline.

Devon and Cornwall police are investigating the sinking. The Pescado was owned by Joseph O'Connor, the previous owner, who remained the ship's agent, is serving a two-year jail sentence for fraud.

Deadly sale awaits execution

Traps, whips and hangman's nooses form part of an archive to be sold at auction, writes Robin Young

THE ARTS of torture and execution will be the focus of attention at Christie's South Kensington auction rooms on May 29. Yesterday the auctioneers held a preliminary private view of some 120 items they will be offering for sale from the Foran Archive of Crime and Punishment, an assemblage of offensive weapons and deadly gadgets likely to make the flesh creep.

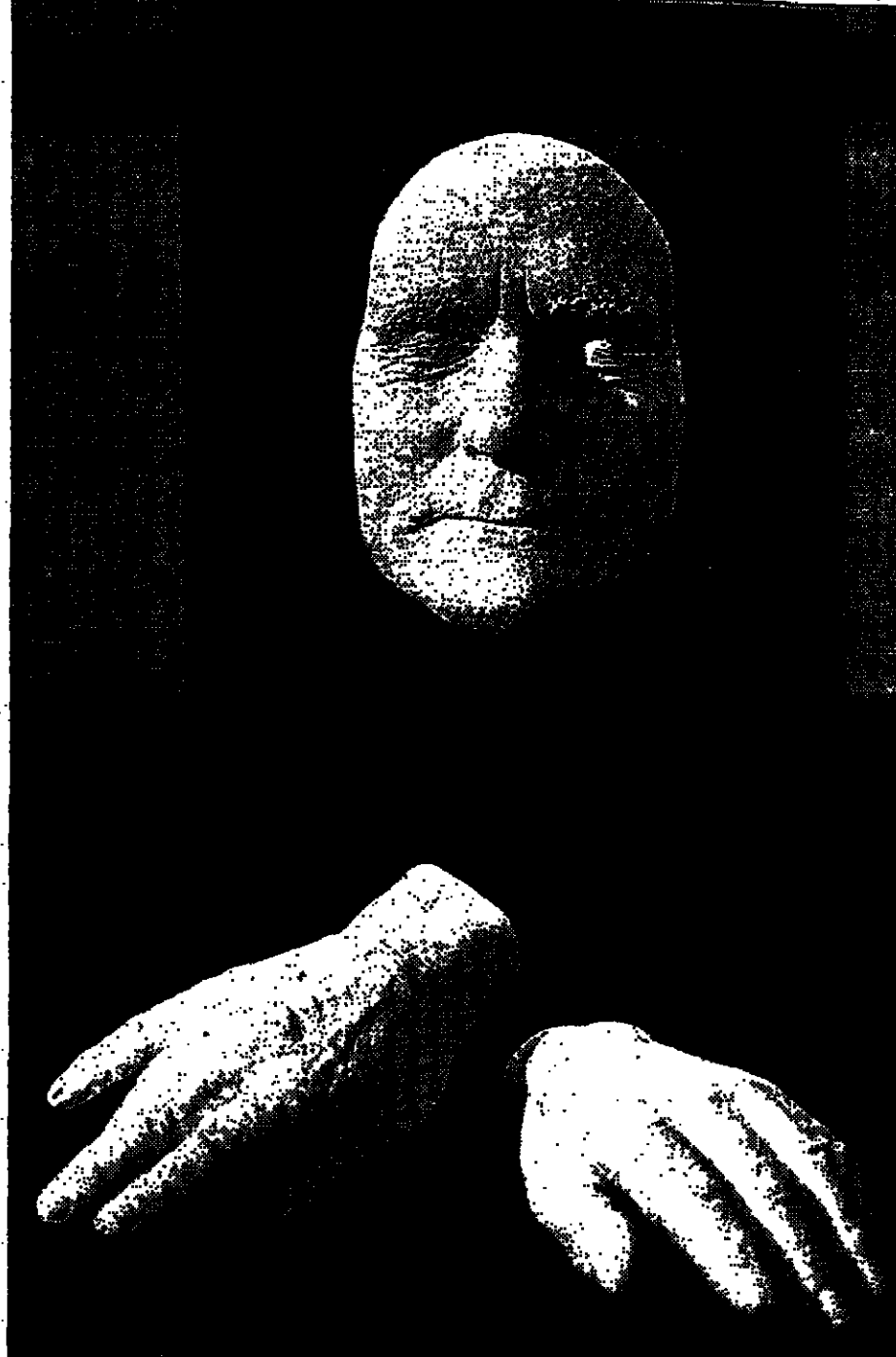
The vendor, Michael Foran, was there to help with enquiries about how he came to be in possession of man-traps, leg-irons, manacles, thumb screws, a birching bench, an iron whip and several hangman's nooses. Like many another caught up in the world of crime, Mr Foran explained that one thing had simply led to another. "First I bought a Georgian man-trap, then I bought as many gin-traps as I could as examples of man's inhumanity to animals. In 1971, I bought items from the traitor Lord Haw-Haw's estate, as examples of man's inhumanity to man."

By the time the collection of Albert Pierpoint, the former hangman, became available, Mr Foran was addicted. Among the several hundred people Mr Pierpoint despatched — all meticulously noted in his execution record book estimated to fetch £20,000 to £30,000 in the sale — was William Joyce, otherwise known as Lord Haw-Haw.

In discreet negotiations with Mr Pierpoint about the items in his collection, Mr Foran, over a period of years, bought the lot. That includes not only Mr Pierpoint's leather briefcase containing his hanging rope, wrist strap, tape measure and white cotton head (estimated at £8,000 to £10,000), but also items inherited from his father and uncle, who were hangmen before him.

Now Mr Foran says that he is retiring reluctantly from a life devoted to crime. Part of the reason, perhaps, is that crime no longer pays.

From 1983 to 1989, items from the collection were exhibited in the Curfew Tower dungeon at Windsor Castle



For sale: the mask and hands of Albert Pierpoint, Britain's last executioner

for the summer season. But hopes of establishing a permanent museum came to naught. "We had not got sufficient capital ourselves, and in the present financial climate we could not find the support we needed," Mr Foran said. "I am reaching retirement age, my family is not interested, so reluctantly I am giving it up."

His wife, Doreen, said that she had never found it disquieting having so many instruments of torture and

macabre mementoes round the house. "Only those with a bad conscience would have slept uneasy," she said, gently fingering the leather strap which Henry Pierpoint invented for hanging a one-armed man.

So what does Mr Foran think about crime and punishment today? "Well, I can only say there is a lot of crime about, and we seem to have got very soft dealing with it. The innocent die, but we permit those who may be absolutely evil to

continue living. I am not sure hanging is the thing, but my personal view is that we should have capital punishment, certainly."

Other items in the collection include an executioner's axe with 16 beheadings to its account (estimated to fetch £1,000 to £1,500), a scold's bridle (£300 to £400), and a signed letter from Dr Crippen (£60 to £100). The total of 120 items should raise well over £100,000 toward Mr Foran's retirement fund.

National curriculum cost put at £2bn

The national curriculum will cost £2 billion to introduce in secondary schools, the management consultant Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte estimated yesterday in a report commissioned by the National Union of Teachers (John O'Leary writes).

Books and equipment, in-service training for teachers and increased salary costs would add up to £280 per pupil in the first year, the report says. Even after premises had been adapted, extra costs would amount to £219 per pupil.

Case studies of seven state schools found that none could afford such an investment. The consultants said that spending on the national curriculum tended to lag behind its implementation.

Two arrested

Two more men have been arrested in connection with the killing of David Wilson, an accountant aged 47, at his home in Brinscall, near Chorley, Lancashire. One is aged 47, from Loughborough, and the other aged 43, from Kent. Another man has appeared in court charged with conspiracy to murder Mr Wilson, who was shot twice through the head two weeks ago.

CS gas prank

More than 120 children were treated in hospital after a CS gas canister was set off as a prank in a corridor at Bromford School, in Wickford, Essex. Staff and emergency services moved 1,000 pupils out while firemen ventilated the building. The injured suffered sickness, eye irritation and breathing difficulties, and were taken to Basildon and Southend hospitals.

False alarm

Armed police laid siege to a bank in Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, after a tip-off that three masked men were in the area before it opened. When the police burst in after a five-hour vigil they found the building empty. A search of a warehouse next door also proved fruitless. The operation, around the Lloyds bank branch, brought the town's High Street West to a standstill for most of the day.

Nurse faces murder trial

By Craig Seton

A FORMER nurse was committed for trial yesterday accused of murdering four children and attempting to murder another nine children who were patients last year at the Grantham and Kesteven general hospital, in Lincolnshire.

Three of the four murder charges against Beverley Gail Allitt, aged 23, who worked in the children's ward at the hospital, relate to babies. Ms Allitt, appearing before Grantham magistrates, was committed on 26 charges, including attempting to murder a 79-year-old resident of an old people's nursing home and a youth, aged 16.

The small courtroom was crowded for Ms Allitt's four-

minute appearance. Parents of some of the children named in the charges were in the public seats. They later joined a crowd outside the court as Ms Allitt was driven away in a police van after the magistrates remanded her in custody to stand trial at Nottingham crown court on a date to be fixed.

Ms Allitt, who has a Grantham address, was dressed in a shell suit top and jeans. She said nothing during the hearing. Dudley Bennett, her counsel, told magistrates that the charges would be contested at trial. He added: "It is a very complicated matter."

Mr Bennett made no application for bail. His request for legal aid to pay for leading

and junior counsel was granted. Reporting restrictions had been lifted when Ms Allitt was first remanded by the court, on November 20.

The allegations against Ms Allitt relate to 15 people, 13 of them children. She is accused of murdering Liam Taylor, aged seven weeks, Becky Phillips, a twin aged two months, and Claire Peck, aged 15 months, all of Grantham, and Timothy Hardwick, aged 11, of Newark, Nottinghamshire. The murder charges relate to dates between February and April last year.

She faces 11 charges of attempted murder and 11 of causing grievous bodily harm.

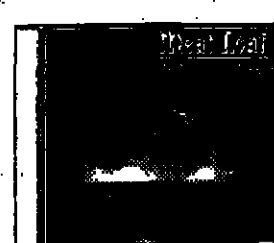
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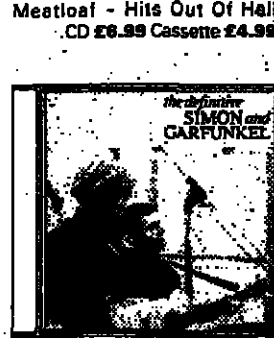
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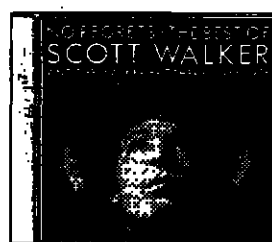
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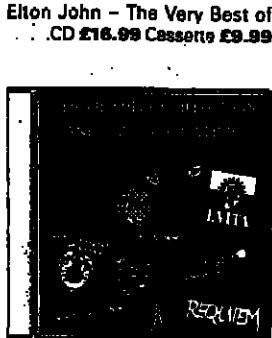
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Brussels VAT proposal

Fine art trade dismayed by antiques tax

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S fine art trade could be finished if a proposal to charge 17.5 per cent value-added tax on imported antiques succeeds, it was said yesterday.

The proposal is being discussed in Brussels this week with a view to being rushed on to the European Community statute books by the Portuguese before their presidency ends in June. Andrew Hill, president of the Confédération Internationale des Négoceurs en Œuvres d'Art (CINOA), a confederation of dealers' associations from all over Europe, said: "London as a clearing house for fine art

will end. It could mean the end of the art market in Europe."

Until now, British buyers have had the unique privilege within the Community of being entitled to import works of art without paying VAT. Mr Hill believes the new charge would drive business to countries such as Switzerland and America where it does not exist.

News of the Portuguese proposal was greeted with dismay by dealers yesterday. Clemens van der Ven, chairman of the European Fine Art fair in Maastricht, a showcase for the best antiques on offer in the Community, said: "Works of art should be duty free. We've had decades in which lots of works of art were exported from Europe. Now, thanks to hard work, our economy is such that we can afford to import again, and buy certain things back."

"Now we are to be penalised. If Portugal wants to penalise the reputation of our cultural heritage, they should not be part of the EC." Another exhibitor, Peter Fairbanks, of the Montgomery Gallery in San Francisco, said: "Such a tax would probably inhibit us from coming to the fair in future."

The proposal is understood to have resulted from a need of the Portuguese to feel they have made progress during their tenure. The Seventh Directive on second-hand goods had become so complicated that they decided to make a fresh start. The proposal is being discussed in Brussels this week and could be law by July.

£138,000 for Garrick papers

THE theatrical archive of David Garrick, the 18th century actor, was dispersed for triple its pre-sale estimate at Phillips in London yesterday (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Many of the main items were bought by the city of Hereford, his birthplace.

An acting copy of *The Rehearsal*, marked for Garrick's part, Bayes, fetched £3,300. A working draft for his Shakespeare Jubilee, performed at Drury Lane in 1769, made £4,950. The script of *Ragandjow*, an obscene parody on a theme in *Julius Caesar*, made £825.

The papers, sold by descendants of the Rev Thomas Rackett, executor of Mrs Garrick's estate, made £138,710.

● The photographic archive of W E Hill & Sons, musical instrument dealers, sold at Phillips for £160,500 to an anonymous Swiss buyer paying £120,000 over estimate.



ALASTAIR GRANT

Select company: five executives celebrate their selection yesterday as finalists for Business Woman of the Year. The five, from left, clockwise, Nikki McCann, Colleen Ryan, Rebecca Jenkins, Gail Rebeck and Phyllis Cunningham, have been shortlisted for an award whose pre-

vious winners include Prue Leith and Anita Roddick. For the first time, a woman from the public sector has been shortlisted. Miss Cunningham, the second woman to be made a director in the NHS, has for 11 years been chief executive of the Royal Marsden Hospital, a leading

institution for cancer treatment. Miss McCann, aged 28, founded the Pasta Company four years ago with two partners and has overseen its growth to turnover of £4 million a year. Miss Rebeck is chairman of Random Century Group, the publisher, and Miss Ryan is chairman

of the market research company. The Research Business Group. Miss Jenkins, who began her career as a truck driver, is managing director of the transport company, Lane Group. The winner of the award, set up by *Veve Clicquot*, is to be announced on April 2.

Pioneer birth offers hope on genetic diseases

A healthy daughter who was born this week to parents carrying cystic fibrosis genes is a testament to the power of new techniques that could reduce the toll of inherited illness, Nigel Hawkes writes

BRITISH researchers have demonstrated the power of new genetic techniques to reduce the toll of inherited disease.

A girl born in Burnley on Monday was the first in the world to be screened as a test-tube embryo to see if she carried the genes for a common genetic disease, cystic fibrosis. The technique, developed at the Hammersmith Hospital, west London, enables couples who may be carriers of the gene to be certain that the developing foetus is free of it.

Robert Winston, of Ham-

mersmith Hospital, said yesterday that the technique was also being used to help carriers of muscular dystrophy and thalassaemia, and rarer genetic diseases such as Lesch-Nyhan syndrome. "Since one in fifty babies born suffers from a significant genetic abnormality, the potential of the technique is considerable," he said.

The mothers who come to

his clinic generally have one child with a genetic disease and want to be sure that the next is healthy. Eggs taken from the mother are fertilised outside the body and, when the embryos reach the eight-cell stage, one or two cells are detached and their DNA analysed. Once an embryo free of the genetic defect is found, it is placed in the womb to develop to full term.

Screening for genetic disease in the womb has been available for some time, but only for foetuses at a much later stage of development. If found to be positive, the mother can be given the chance of an abortion, but that was often traumatic, Professor Winston said.

The girl born on Monday weighed 6lb and was fit and well. Her parents, who have

asked not to be identified, have one child with cystic fibrosis and were worried that the next would also suffer.

In a separate development, scientists at the Royal Veterinary College in London have shown that gene therapy can reduce the symptoms of muscular dystrophy in mice. By injecting a gene into a single-celled embryo of a mouse, they have shown that it is possible to repair a defective gene and reduce the symptoms of the disease.

Health
L&T section, pages 5-6

Train kills woman in car

A woman passenger was killed and the male driver seriously injured when their car was hit by a train on a level crossing yesterday. None of the train's passengers was hurt but its driver was treated for shock.

A fire officer called to the crash, at the Wotton Broadmead crossing on the Bedford to Bletchley line, Bedfordshire, said: "There were two elderly people in the car. It seems they were waiting at the crossing when, for reasons we do not know, they pulled in front of the train."

It is thought the car driver may have believed that a train which had just passed was the only one due to go over the crossing. British Rail has launched an investigation.

Coach attack

Three prison officers were injured after being hit with a hammer when fighting broke out on a coach taking young remand prisoners to Lichfield magistrates court, Derbyshire. Three prisoners are expected to be charged with assault and criminal damage.

SAS based in

A former Special Air Service member has been recruited to train bus drivers in Hereford how to deal with unruly passengers after several incidents on late-night buses.

Crisp sabotage

Police were called to the Smiths Crisps factory in Lincoln after metal staples were found on a production line. The incident is being treated as sabotage.

Parish council

The villagers of Orford, Suffolk, are opposing a council scheme to install benches and create flower beds there. They say that the "parish enhancement scheme" is a waste of money.

Foolery afoot

Strange winged "insects" will feature in an exhibition at Sheffield's City Museum, opening on April 1. They are carved from wax and modelled on human big toes.



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ELECTION 92

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Mori polls... L&T page 4

Pupils get
breaktime
lesson in
democracyBy MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION REPORTER

Little more than a stone's throw from the Houses of Parliament, pupils at Westminster school joined the political fray yesterday and cast their votes in a mock election which pitted the big political parties against some off-beat challengers.

Candidates gathered around the ballot box in Little Dean's Yard to make a final pitch to the teenage electorate of 610 and carve out a small niche alongside Tony Benn and Nigel Lawson in the school's political hall of fame.

Anthony Gutman, aged 17, the Conservative candidate, said that Labour had little to offer the self-reliant youth of the 1990s. "I think that the ideal of socialism is a thing of the past," he said. "I don't believe in statism or state intervention. People should reap their own rewards and call their own shots."

His Labour opponent, Annie Mills, aged 16, said that the privilege of an education at Westminster, where fees are £2,300 a term, brought with it social responsibility. "There's been 13 years of Tory government and they haven't been prosperous years for the disadvantaged," she said.

Voters complained that there was little to tell the parties apart but Paddy Ashdown emerged as a popular figure in an age of grey-suited consensus. Jasper Goldman, aged 13, said: "He's a winner among my age group and a much more glamorous figure than the other two leaders."

Some way further from the consensus were Westminster's Revolutionary Communists, who complained that their names had been left off the ballot paper in a typical reactionary ploy.

A last-minute split in the rebel vote was threatened by the unhinged presence of the Eighth Way, a lunatic fringe describing themselves as the "love-shack of politics" and promising to abolish the letter J.

The result: Conservatives 202, Labour 128, Liberal Democrats 94 and Revolutionary Communists 25.



Spouting politics: Spitting Image's party leader jugs, Mr Major with a wind-up key, Mr Kinnock with red rose handle, went on sale yesterday for £100 the pair

Smith's mock budget
comes under attack

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tories attacked John Smith's shadow budget yesterday in an attempt to claw back Labour's lead in the opinion polls.

John Major accused the shadow chancellor of producing not so much a mock budget as a "mockery of a budget" and claimed that it was riddled with "elementary omissions".

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said that Labour's promise of an investment-led recovery would be wiped out by a slump in consumer demand triggered by its "breath-taking" tax increases for middle income groups.

Mr Smith counter-attacked by accusing Mr Lamont of committing an "amazing gaffe" by conceding that Labour's proposals would make millions of taxpayers better-off and by abandoning claims that the average taxpayer would face a "tax bombshell" of £1,000 extra a year.

The latest polls give the

Tories a 6 to 9 per cent lead on economic competence, in spite of the recession, and senior ministers say Mr Smith's budget has handed them ammunition for a key election battleground.

The prime minister highlighted Labour's arithmetic on privatisation proceeds, receipts from council house sales, the impact of the minimum wage on the health service and investment allowances as evidence of "staggering incompetence". He accused Mr Smith of ducking questions about the Opposition's attitude towards revenues from future privatisations.

According to the Treasury's red book, privatisations are projected to bring in £8 billion in the coming year and £5.5 billion in each of the following two years. Those sums would be lost to Labour if the programme of state sell-offs was halted, raising questions about where Mr Smith

would find the money to pay for his spending programme and 10 per cent indexation of personal tax allowances.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade secretary, went part of the way to answering the Tory charges by making clear that Labour would use the £8 billion proceeds from second and third instalments of past share issues.

"What the Conservatives have costed is an £8 billion receipt from privatisation proceeds in the coming financial year.

"It is money that comes from privatisations that have already taken place. I don't think the Conservatives can dispute that they have already ensured that that money is coming in 1992-3."

Mr Lamont argued that Labour had not addressed itself to the £5.5 billion of privatisation proceeds that the government is projecting for 1993-4 and 1994-5. It is understood that the Chancellor expects to raise these sums by, for instance, selling a 40 per cent stake in the electricity generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, and a final 25 per cent stake in BT.

Ministers intend to press Labour over whether it would give the go-ahead for fresh disposals or whether it would halt state sell-offs once the £8 billion had been collected.

Labour challenged Mr Major to explain how he would raise £11 billion over two years. "He's plucking figures out of the air," a spokesman said.

"He should specify which privatisations he's referring to. We based our statements on the real figures and the real privatisations that are in train," a spokesman said.

Mr Lamont said Labour's planned top tax rate of effectively 59 per cent was much more punitive than in comparable European countries.

Tory defies odds
in jobs blackspot

By DAVID YOUNG

THE Scottish National Party would seem to have the best chance of election. But despite rising unemployment, its reputation as the blackest of unemployment blackspots in the country, and the predominance of Scottish accents on the streets, Corby has a Conservative MP.

The reason, says the sitting MP William Powell who won the seat from Labour in 1983 and held it in 1987, is his record in the constituency and the policies of the Conservatives in the past years.

During the 1980s Corby pulled itself out of high unemployment after the closure of the steel works which had attracted so many Scottish families south in the early Fifties and which still gives the town an 80 per cent Scottish population.

Local Conservatives say this was possible because of government help which gave the town enterprise zone status and drew in dozens of small and medium companies to new estate areas. Redundancy payments from British Steel allowed many council tenants to become home owners.

But the bubble burst, says Sandy Feather, the Labour candidate, who in 1987 came within 1805 votes of taking the seat from Mr Powell.

Unemployment is again rising as many small factories which opened in the past ten years are affected by recession and one major employer in the past ten years has switched operations to Germany.

Yesterday Mr Feather was at the Aqueduct factory in the town where the 200 workers have been told it will close in July with production being transferred to the company's other factory in Kettering. Ironically, 87 of the staff, who produced the elegant suits and coats which "power dressed" Mrs Thatcher during her years as prime minister are to be made redundant.

Today more than 40 will collect their last pay

packets. Lily Latta, one of the staff, said: "This government is allowing in too many imports and exporting our jobs. We need a change."

Mr Feather has had experience of redundancy this week. Jessica, his 17-year-old daughter, has lost her first full-time job because of the closure of the Burlington shoe factory in Kettering.

Mr Feather, whose father Victor was the TUC general secretary, said: "My daughter has a home to go to. She is fed and dressed but the trauma of losing her job has had a considerable effect on us all. In many ways she is lucky but many others are losing their jobs and they have no one to support them."

However Mr Powell who is a barrister is confident of winning Corby for a third time, despite criticism within some sectors of his local Conservative party that he has spent too much time on his duties as parliamentary private secretary to Michael Heseltine. He can still count on a large rural vote. Corby constituency includes the eastern area of Northamptonshire — the "county of 'spires and squares'".

He said: "I stand on my record of nine years as the MP for this area. I have always done my best to support the interests of the area and policies which the Conservative party advances, which I think are in the best interests of the people here."

Melvyn Roffe, the third candidate, who is an English and drama teacher at Oundle School, is standing for the Liberal Democrats. He is leader of the Lib Dem group on east Northamptonshire district council. "I think I am the candidate who has the experience of serving people locally and I've got a good track record of working for constituents. My party alone has a vision for real and sustainable growth," he said.

Election
proves a
jug's game

By LOUISE HIDALGO

SPITTING Image, ruthless purveyors of television satire, joined the political fray yesterday with the release of two jugs bearing less than flattering images of Messrs Kinnock and Major.

Initial orders show Mr Major counselling his opponent by four to three. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, was among the first of a number of MPs to place a £100 order for the pair.

The tradition of such images dates back to the early 18th century, although the more famous Toby jugs — full length portraits — began before that. The Duke of Wellington earned himself a "character" mug after the Battle of Waterloo.

Sir Winston Churchill crossed swords with Royal Doulton over its mug of him during the second world war, and ordered production to cease. One of the 300 mugs that slipped on to the market last year fetched £15,000 at auction.

Similarly, a modern-day war hero, General Norman Schwarzkopf, was angered by the commemorative image produced recently by Kevin Francis of Stoke, makers of the Kinnock-Major pair. The firm has agreed to stop sales to the US.

Character mugs have not solely been made for commemorative or satirical purposes. During the 19th century, black spots were added to some images as a warning of the dangers of venereal disease.

Kevin Francis has brought out mugs for most of the world's leaders in the firm's six-year life. The most popular, according to Kevin Pearson, a partner, was one of Mikhail Gorbachev sitting on the Berlin wall. Another showed Chancellor Helmut Kohl throwing money across the wall. Some 400 mugs of Margaret Thatcher with a dagger sticking from her back have been sold.

VOX POP
by Peter BarnardHanna's
cosy
insomnia
show

COMETH the hour, cometh the women. And smiling inter-party agreement. And casually explicit conversation among people on first-name terms, as if the oldest friends at a party have gathered for a last coffee after the make-weight guests have gone.

At midnight every night Channel Four starts two hours of election talk, beginning with the news of the previous day but mainly focused on a forum for various politicians. This programme is blessed relief for insomniacs normally confronted with a choice between creaking movies and the hideous Australian soap Prisoner: Cell Block H.

Vincent Hanna chairs it for most of the week, his introduction to the viewers describing the show as "the best cure for sleep since Macbeth". Hanna is a rotund figure who made his name at the BBC long ago, having virtually invented on-the-spot by-election coverage and interviews in which dispiritedly thumped candidates explain why the train that has just run over them is in fact a light at the end of the tunnel.

At this hour opposition-bashing will not do, at least not on its own. Something happens to politicians when they have been up all day and half the night and after nearly a week of monitoring them I am beginning to understand what it is.

We, that is, they, loosen up. They start to regard each other not as phantoms to consume or be consumed by, but as fellow inhabitants of the same goldfish bowl. They long to relax and smile at each other.

Hanna has not so far extracted anything earthshaking, but he will, he will. He is the only television presenter tacitly to admit that politics is a club in which the politicians and the journalists are members on an equal footing.

Therefore Hanna apparently sees no point in "mistering" people on screen when as soon as the cameras are switched off it will be "goodbye Ken, thanks very much". So the early hours of yesterday combined, rarely for this election so far, coyness with a preponderance of women whose presence could be justified. This was a change from the Tory manifesto launch, when Gillian Shepherd, not in the cabinet, was brought into the press launch in what looked like tokenism.

Hanna produced Baroness Hanwell, of the Lib Dems, who is a new one on me. Oh I am sorry. "Sally" Hanwell. Also "Joan" Ruddock for Labour, "Jan" Clark for the Greens and (token male?), "Michael" Dobbs, the former Tory central office chief of staff. So with "Vincent" to plot the course, we had a jolly couple of hours: The Famous Five Go To Westminster.

At 2am, Vincent said it was time for all of us to go to bed, so we did. I fell asleep dreaming of a golden age of civilised and rational debate, but please, not yet. Too much coyness can leave you longing for Mr Heseltine to stride in and hit someone: anyone who calls him Michael?

Hattersley suffers for water slip

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership slapped down Roy Hattersley yesterday over his suggestion that the party, if in power, would buy back water shares to renationalise the industry.

The rebuke was delivered by Dr Jack Cunningham, the party's campaign chief, after Mr Hattersley contradicted a manifesto pledge to put water under public control rather than public ownership.

Dr Cunningham told a press conference: "We are not going to buy shares. We are going to exercise stronger and more effective control over the private monopolies in the interests of the public, the consumer and the environment."

He said Neil Kinnock had made plain Labour would not spend money buying back water shares. The campaigns chief issued the clarification as the Conservatives sought to exploit what senior Labour sources privately conceded was a slip by their deputy leader. Chris Patten, Tory party chairman, said Labour was planning to "confiscate by stealth" water shares and urged Mr Kinnock to clarify his "pointless and vindictive" intentions towards the industry.

Mr Hattersley, who spent yesterday campaigning in Yorkshire, made no comment on the affair, but was said to recognise that he had erred and to accept the position as set out by Dr Cunningham.

The bill for full water renationalisation would be about £8 billion and Labour has been edging away from a policy commitment in *Opportunity Britain* last year to transfer ownership to the proposed regional assemblies. "We shall pay a fair market price for any equity or ownership rights which we wish to acquire in the water industry," the document added.

The policy change was completed at the clause 5 meeting of Labour's national executive and shadow cabinet on Monday, which Mr Hattersley attended. The manifesto says that water is a "priority for return to public control". Labour sources were puzzled why Mr Hattersley had not registered the change of tack but suggested that his remarks had amounted to little more than a slip of the tongue.

Labour's backtracking did not satisfy the Tories, who are arguing that plans for tighter regulation of privatised utilities will hit profits and dividends and drive down share values. Mr Patten said in a letter to Mr Kinnock: "If you want to take the shares back without using public money, you only have two options — outright confiscation or driving the price down by new state controls and slashing dividends so you can renationalise on the cheap."



Own goal: Roy Hattersley gets ahead at the Elland Road ground in Leeds

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"Such an approach would drive down share prices and make it easier for Labour to pursue its pointless and vindictive policy of renationalising the water industry."

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Press hounds don't bite cuddly Green mammals

"To be Green in Britain in 1992... is like being a small mammal watching the last two dinosaurs engaged in a struggle to the death. On the one hand, there is a deep inner sense of personal fragility. On the other, there is a deep inner confidence that the future does not belong to the dinosaur."

That prefaces the Green party manifesto, launched yesterday. The small mammals had gathered in a modest burrow near Covent Garden. The hounds of the press had gathered to bait them.

The London Ecology Centre, 21 Endell Street, lacks the pretensions of a great conference hall. Squeezed between Johnson's outfitters ("Closing Down") and the Carriv Awaze II Deli & Sandwich Bar, a simple room awaited. No need for loudspeakers. At one end was a table with a green tablecloth and three chairs.

Into the three chairs filed a mouse, a grey dove and a rabbit. The mouse was called Richard Lawson: a small man with a kind, slightly anxious face, and very bright eyes.

The grey dove told us her name was Sara Parkin. She had a finely chiselled beak and, though quite young, striking grey hair worn long and unadorned. There was a sort of hand-some serenity about her, like a



MATTHEW PARRIS

Quakeress. The rabbit, Jean Lambert, was a little shorter with round face and nervous movements. Fur and feather neatly brushed, the small mammals had come to present their survival plans.

Manifestos were distributed. There were two. One was called *The Path*, the other *The Politics*.

The grey dove spoke first. The double manifesto was "a special treat" for us. She and her fellow mammals were "in very high spirits". They were "the fastest growing political movement the world has ever seen". Some Greens from Czechoslovakia had come to stay with some of the Green candidates here. "Greens from Prague to Portsmouth are inspired by exactly the same concerns." The grey dove urged the dinosaurs to stop "fiddling with a penny on income tax, while the planet burns" and handed us over to the mouse.

The mouse made an arresting speech, in an offbeat sort of way. Peering intensely at us with his shining

CAMPAIGN SKETCH

little eyes, he took a risk for a Green: he adopted a military analogy. He and his fellow mammals were, he said, a tiny posse fighting huge and brutal invaders: the forces of extinction. The small mammals were fighting alone. The dinosaurs, Tories and Labour, seemed blind to the threat and collaborated with the wreckers of our planet. The Liberal Democrats were "wimps".

Green politicians deal in a different sort of prediction from the forward figures for interest rates or GDP. Last week Mr Lamont said that the economy will grow by 1 per cent. This week, Mr Smith said that the recession would continue, under the Tories. Yesterday, the mouse said that humans will end up alone on the planet except for cockroaches and rats. The householder canvassed in quick succession by all three parties may need a stiff drink.

Outlining the "five screaming injustices" of modern politics, the mouse called Mr Kinnock "Tweedle-

dum" and Mr Major "Tweedledee", and sat down. The rabbit told us it was acceptable, even desirable, to have no children. Pressed on this, she admitted that Greens are not proposing to legislate for it. She quoted Gandhi, proposed a tax on packaging, and denied that Greens were "anti-car". Their manifesto undertakes to cancel road-building schemes and offer "incentives to those able to use the canal network", but the rabbit did not expand on that.

Finally, the mammals took questions from the hounds. The mouse got into a muddle about why the apparent £75 billion cost of his scheme for a basic wage was an exaggeration, and the grey dove inveighed passionately against the word "other". Greens object to the way pollsters lump their supporters under "other" parties. In Sweden, she said, Greens sue people who use the O-word.

The hounds of the press restrained their savagery. These little creatures seemed to believe their own message and care little what we made of it. Small mammals which roll over on their backs and offer the jugger are confusing to scavengers. The mouse, the grey dove and the rabbit were not playing our game. We left by taxi, there being no canals.

Back-to-back campaigning as Major leads assault on Labour's policies



Eyes down for April 9: John Major and Chris Patten offer a study in parallel profiles at the Tory press conference yesterday while Norman Lamont emerges to lend the proceedings a certain symmetry

Crowd forces prime minister to abandon town walkabout

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

ANTI-government protesters forced John Major to abandon his first walkabout of the election campaign in Bolton, Lancashire yesterday. The prime minister and his team were jostled by some of the 500-strong crowd and police shepherded them back to their bus.

Mr Major, his wife Norma and a group of MPs from marginal seats had left the Conservative Battle Bus in the town centre planning to walk round the shopping precinct. But police helmets went flying as a hostile crowd jostled the Conservative team. The crowd, many of them students, some carrying Socialist Workers party banners and others wearing Labour

party stickers, surrounded the Majors and jeered and shouted: "Major out."

It was impossible for Mr Major to talk to voters as planned and the police decided to escort them back to their coach. The demonstrators cheered and shook their fists as the coach pulled away.

Mr Major's chief press officer, Tim Collins, said: "This is not spontaneous. This is the Labour party of today, intimidation, thuggery and threats. It throws a dark light on the Labour party."

Tom Sackville, who is defending Bolton West, said: "We have seen a lot of violence in this crowd. It came from the rabble of the labour movement. We have now seen what it was like. There are a lot of anti-democratic elements in this country. We saw it in the miners' strike and the poll tax demos and we have seen it here today."

Some students from the Bolton Institute said they had been tipped off about an hour before Mr Major arrived, through their students union. Earlier Mr Major had to negotiate a less threatening encounter with a naked lady carrying a whip. After a routine trip round the computer and robotics classes of Blackpool and Fylde higher education college, the Majors went into a hall where students were demonstrating performing arts, health and fitness.

In the corner was Rachel Knowles, aged 18, an A-level student, dressed up as the Blackpool Tower. Beside her was another toposid girl undergoing aromatherapy on a massage table.

Beside her was a beely bodybuilder wearing only cycling shorts as he worked out on a stepping machine. Rachel, a blonde model for the media make-up students, was wearing yellow bikini briefs, a

top hat, a bow tie, a winning smile and a lot of body paint. But nothing else. She was surrounded by a silver metal frame depicting the tower, and she sported a whip. She had been painted to demonstrate Blackpool's attractions, including the tower, ballroom dancing and clowns.

Was she or wasn't she? Perhaps seconds before Mr Major the large travelling media corps realised that Rachel was wearing nothing under her stage paint. They moved in for the kill.

Mr Major and his terrified minders realised just in time. It was every politician's campaign nightmare. If actors should not appear with dogs or children, prime ministers should not be photographed with nude women during a general election campaign.

There was a hurried consultation. Mr Major's politeness did not desert him. He was not going to ignore Rachel and create an even bigger fuss. But he kept his distance. From a full 15 feet he asked her how long it took her to take off the paint. "A long time," she replied.

Later she told reporters that she had been not at all embarrassed by the meeting but she thought the Prime Minister might have been.

Quite how Mr Major got into this situation was unclear last night. College officials said they had checked with the Tory party and had been told that Mr Major would want to see all aspects of the college's works.

Mr Major's staff admitted they had been taken by surprise but they were far from downcast because the incident had, temporarily, deflected attention from the latest unemployment figures. One of Mr Major's team said he had not been embarrassed. "He took it all in a good spirit." It was, after all, the official added, in the name of art.

For the most part, Mr Ashdown's reception suggested that north Devon and north Cornwall were natural Liberal territories only temporarily resting in Tory hands with four-figure majorities. His welcome during his walkabout in Barnstaple and Launceston was largely genuine and good-humoured.

Thorpe meeting recalls past glories

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY Thorpe was spotted peering briefly around a doorway by a few of the most eagle-eyed cameramen on the Liberal Democrat election trail yesterday.

Paddy Ashdown talked to him briefly in, we are told, a poignant meeting for the former Liberal leader is now a frail and sad figure, suffering from Parkinson's disease. Perhaps it was to remind himself of his own triumphalist election excursions that he allowed himself a quick glance at the Ashdown entourage.

The meeting took place in Barnstaple's guildhall and Mr Ashdown emerged afterwards to make one of his most emotionally charged speeches on the steps.

He spoke of his return to the "rock of radicalism" in north Devon which the Liberals lost with the departure of Mr Thorpe, to the Conservatives in 1979 and now seek to regain. He quoted an old

West Country Liberal's use of the biblical text: "Remember the pit from which you are dug, the rock from which you are hewn."

His impassioned speech, over the heads of shoppers struggling through the party followers, illustrated far better than his carefully rehearsed utterances his belief that the Liberal Democrats can replace a Labour party that has had its day.

It was as if, after consoling with all those former Owenites, adjusting his old Liberal policies, working so hard on his speech and gestures, he suddenly remembered what it was all about.

For the most part, Mr Ashdown's reception suggested that north Devon and north Cornwall were natural Liberal territories only temporarily resting in Tory hands with four-figure majorities. His welcome during his walkabout in Barnstaple and Launceston was largely genuine and good-humoured.

Labour may delay minimum wage bill for a year

BY JILL SHERMAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A LABOUR government may decide to delay legislation imposing a national minimum wage, Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said yesterday.

Labour was not committed to introducing a bill on the minimum wage in its first year of office, he said. Setting a £3.40 minimum hourly rate was a priority, but "we will consult extensively, as we have said in the manifesto, prior to the implementation, and of course the Bill has got to go through Parliament."

Mr Blair, who was visiting trainee engineers at Heathrow airport, said that the introduction of a bill depended on consultation and the parliamentary timetable. "We'll introduce it as soon as we can."

The national minimum wage has been long-standing Labour policy but there have been concerns about its financial and employment costs. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, has suggested that it would cost 2 million jobs, a figure dismissed by Labour, which has always denied that there would be a significant impact on employment.

Conservatives seized on remarks yesterday by John Prescott, the Labour transport spokesman, who said in a television interview that there "may be some shake-out" of jobs. Mr Howard said that Labour leaders were in a middle with Mr Brown contradicting Mr Prescott.

Mr Blair pointed to figures from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research which he said showed that the national minimum wage would create growth in the short term. The report, however, goes on to say that the minimum wage would cost about 150,000 jobs after 1994 if it were introduced immediately.

Mr Howard claimed that Labour's shadow budget contained a "£2 billion blunder" because its promise to pay the rate for the job for trainees,

which had to mean at least the minimum wage, would add £1.4 billion to the cost of Employment Training schemes and £550 million to the work experience programme. This figure dwarfed the £300 million set aside in the shadow budget for training.

Neil Kinnock indicated that the legislation would not be introduced in the Queen's speech on May 8th if Labour had a small majority or had to form a minority government in a hung parliament, but would be delayed until a second Queen's speech later that year. His preference, however, was clearly to have one Queen's speech followed by an 18-month parliament.

Asked when a bill would be introduced he said: "I would like to see it fully in being after 12 months in Parliament." He refused to commit a Labour government to introducing it in the first year.

"I am not being as specific as I would like to be on the date, because if we get elected now we then have to make the decision on whether the parliamentary year ends at the traditional time, so we have another Queen's speech in November or whether we run the parliamentary session right through to November 1993." Both would be in order but it would affect any decisions on legislation.

Mr Kinnock appeared to suggest that with a small majority a Labour government would push through essential legislation in the first Queen's Speech, such as the Fair rates bill, to replace the poll tax, which Labour has said it will do by next April. Labour has also pledged extra big spending commitments in the first 22 months, such as £1 billion on health and £600 million on education, which would be less affordable if combined with the introduction of a minimum wage.

MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

Ace image maker reflects on tactics

Brendan Bruce was once Margaret Thatcher's image maker so he obviously wants John Major to win — but as he watched the four main ITN and BBC news bulletins on Wednesday night he could hardly restrain his irritation.

He noted with a nod of approval the Union Jack displayed prominently at Labour's manifesto press conference, then groaned when Mr Major said Tories believed in empowering not overpowering the people. "What does that mean?", he asked. "She" — he meant Mrs Thatcher — "would simply have said 'I want people to control their own lives'."

Mr Bruce, still unofficially advising some ministers, was unimpressed by the presentation of the Tory manifesto, with ministers banked around and behind Mr Major in tiers. The effect was to bury Mr Major, with the ministers apparently disappearing behind their desks, and resembling the Soviet politburo.

There are no more severe critics of Mr Major, Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown than their own media experts, the men and women who advise them what suits and ties to wear, how to answer or dodge questions and how to appear to best effect on television. They study the form of their candidates as closely as if they were actors in the West End or horses at Ascot.

Mr Bruce, who has written a book, *Images of Power*, on how image makers shape our leaders, still keeps a professional eye on election news and, as he watched the early ITN and BBC bulletins, his agenda was clear. Because few electors read manifestos, the media verdict as presented on television was vital. Would the Tories get across a vision and would Labour avoid giving the impression that they were still mired in the mess of 1983 and 1987?

By 6.30, his criticisms

were coming thick and fast. Where were the Tory photo opportunities to exploit the manifesto? Why were ministers banked around Mr Major in London when they could have been out in the country selling the message on regional television?

Why did Mr Major say what he was not doing instead of what he was promising? Mr Kinnock remained on the podium to answer questions, conveying an impression of leadership, while Mr Major returned to the ranks and appeared to be diminished among his colleagues.

Mr Bruce also admiringly noted Mr Kinnock's constant repetition of the need for a "fresh start" — a refrain that was to be frequently picked up on both main evening bulletins.

There were more critical comments during the longer bulletins at 9pm and 10pm. Why were Mr Major and Chris Patten so tetchy when asked about Mrs Thatcher? Because many in the constituencies would be privately thinking that it was she who had put them where they now were, why not say something charming?

Admitting that that was the sort of reporting news managers hated, he was also uneasy about a Polly Toynbee report for the BBC on housing, especially when she suggested that one Labour policy "may be more attractive" — with the implicit message that it might therefore be more successful.

After three hours' viewing, the Bruce verdict was that, by picking up the Kinnock theme of a "fresh start" the political media pack was on the cusp of starting to agree that Labour had won the first round.

Labour had got hold of an idea that the election was about the recession. If it could shift the argument to a debate on who could get Britain out of it and make that the main issue, Labour stood a chance, he said.

Conservatives keep hold of the Anglican vote

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

VOTERS have always suspected that the Church of England is the Tory party at prayer, but now it is official. In an opinion poll published today, the Conservatives have a six-point lead over Labour among Church of England voters.

The poll, carried in the Roman Catholic weekly newspaper *The Universe*, gives Labour a 13-point lead among Catholics. Of 4,064 people interviewed by Gallup between March 3 and 10, 2,490 were Anglican, 555 were Catholic, 220 were Free Church and Nonconformist, 28 were Jewish and the re-

mainder were non-denominational or from other religions.

Among Anglicans, 41 per cent said that they would vote Conservative, 35 per cent Labour and 20 per cent Liberal Democrat. Among Catholics, the position with the two leading parties was reversed: 30 per cent supported the Conservatives and 43 per cent Labour. Eighteen per cent said that they would vote Liberal Democrat.

Of the Nonconformists, 42 per cent supported the Conservatives, the highest proportion of all the churches: 33 per cent supported Lab-

our, and 21 per cent the Liberal Democrats. A Gallup survey for *The Universe* in the 1987 election showed a higher level of Conservative support among Catholics, reflecting the higher level of Tory support throughout the country.

Gordon Heald, managing director of Gallup, said that stronger support for Labour among Catholics than other denominations was due to historical and demographic reasons. The Catholic population is significantly younger and located in areas such as the north of England and Scotland where there is a

strong Labour support. "The poll challenges the old stereotype of Catholics being largely working class and shows there are fewer class differences between Catholics and the rest of the population. Mr Heald said: "There are equal proportions among Catholics of blue-collar workers and unskilled workers as found in the general population."

None of the main three parties has a section in its manifesto devoted to religion, but religion is an element in all. The Liberal Democrats make a commitment to oppose discrimina-

tion on the ground of religion. Their pledge to reform the Lords would affect the Anglican bishops in the upper House.

The Labour party intends to make voluntary-aided schools available on the same criteria to all religions, which would result in Muslim schools. The Conservatives want to maintain and strengthen the partnership between the state and churches in education, and make a commitment to equality in community relations, regardless of ethnic background, religion or personal belief.

Tories promise more Whitehall scrutiny

IN PROMISING to open Whitehall to greater public scrutiny, the Conservatives are seeking to counter proposals from the two principal Opposition parties to introduce freedom of information legislation (Richard Ford writes).

John Major's commitment to the Citizen's Charter with its emphasis on providing consumers with more information and measures such as publishing league tables of school examination results has driven the party toward advocating more scrutiny of the workings of government.

"If we are saying to local authorities that they must be more open to scrutiny then it follows that government must be more open," said one Conservative central office source.

Maurice Frankel of the Campaign for Freedom of Information said he remained sceptical about Conservative intentions. "The manifesto does not talk about providing a legal right to personal records. If it is to be a discretionary rather than legal right then people would not have the right to challenge decisions not to release information."

NATURAL LAW PARTY

-Manifesto-

INTRODUCTION

'ONLY A NEW SEED WILL YIELD A NEW CROP' something new must be introduced into the field of administration so that the old established systems and procedures of national administration that are familiar to the people are enlivened and revitalized, so that administration always maintains its vitality, comprehensive purposefulness, and is always fulfilling to everyone.

Administration should have the ability to always satisfy everyone. This will only be possible when Natural Law upholds administration because Natural Law is the only one element in the universe that promotes the progress, growth and evolution of everyone and everything and does equal justice to all.

We offer to the nation our plans and programmes to create such an ideal administration through the introduction of Natural Law.

We offer to the nation an ideal system of administration on par with the administration of the universe—orderly, efficient, self-sufficient, inviolable and always nourishing to everyone.

Introduction of Natural Law in the theme of national administration will glorify administration on all levels—national, provincial, city, community, family, and the administration of mind and body. The administration of all values of life will always remain efficient, effective, nourishing, vital, and evolutionary.

The feelings and voice of the nation have been echoed by the news media demanding new principles, new procedures, and a new basis to national administration.

Today, when the national feeling has come to the desperate level of 'a choice of evils' (15 March 1992, *Sunday Times*), we, who hold the key to knowledge, feel that we should offer our services to the nation.

In response to the call of the nation we offer something new from the field of science; we offer our discovery of the Constitution of the Universe.

The Constitution of the Universe, ever lively in its eternal wakefulness within every grain of creation, governs the universe with perfect orderliness and without a problem.

This Unified Field of Natural Law, the field of pure consciousness or pure intelligence, is at the unmanifest basis of creation and governs all levels of life through Natural Law.

The Unified Field Theories of Quantum Physics (N=8 Supergravity, and Heterotic Superstring, etc.) from the standpoint of modern science have identified this ultimate reality of life, the Unified Field of Natural Law, the field of pure consciousness, or pure intelligence. The Rik Ved is the lively expression of complete knowledge of this basic level of Nature's intelligence. The Vedic Literature, as brought to light by His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, contains the complete record of this level of intelligence in Nature which creates and governs the infinite diversity of the ever-expanding universe—the Laws of Nature which maintain the orderly universe, from the blossoming of the rose to the earth moving around the sun, to the galaxies moving in empty space.

The Constitution of the Universe—Natural Law—is inscribed in the field of pure intelligence or pure consciousness and is the eternal set of systems and laws that administer the evolution of everything in the ever-expanding universe in perfect harmony.

The Constitution of the Universe is so intimate to everyone because it is one's own self-referential consciousness; it is one's own Self; it is one's own intelligence; it is the basic level of everyone's life; it is the organizing, nourishing power of life; it is the intelligence of life which motivates everyone in the evolutionary direction; it is the basic impulse of the heart and mind of everyone.

Administration through Natural Law is the supreme ideal of administration. Now in this scientific age it is possible to introduce Natural Law in the theme of administration and create national administration on par with the administration of the universe.

Our complete and scientific knowledge of Natural Law will provide a stable and very real foundation to all the affairs of our cherished nation. It will provide a profound basis to our national constitution—to the man-made laws and procedures of our administration.

More than 500 scientific research studies and experiences of over 4 million people throughout the world validate our programme. Both modern science and ancient Vedic Science, as brought to light by Maharishi, stand to authenticate our ability to raise national administration to an ideal state and establish an ideal government for our country.

We stand confident in our ability to raise national administration to be on a par with the administration of the universe—orderly, supremely efficient, and nourishing to all.

All our 651 constituencies will offer knowledge of Natural Law.

It is our joy to offer automation of administration through education in Natural Law. No one will violate Natural Law. No one will create the ground for stress, suffering, and failure.

We will provide the whole population with the most advanced knowledge of Natural Law, and give them proper training through the scientifically validated practice of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi Programme, which develop the ability to think and act spontaneously in accord with Natural Law. This will maintain a highly integrated and evolutionary quality of life.

This will eliminate the root cause of crime and anti-social behaviour. Negative trends will simply disappear and national consciousness will rise in ever-increasing positivity and harmony preventing the growth of stress, strain, disease, and suffering. This will reduce the government spending and hence the need for

heavy taxation and will justify our low taxation policy.

We will apply Natural Law to every area of the nation, offering training for achieving perfection in every profession as well as training in new professions to promote Natural Law.

We will create new jobs to beautify the country in every way. We will engage the talented and creative people to remodel the urban areas and create a new disease-free, crime-free, pollution-free Great Britain.

We will also decorate the nation by building new ideal villages by the side of densely populated cities, with beautiful homes, gardens, and fountains, and lakes beautifying the countryside.

Natural Law-based living will build the nation and will make the United Kingdom a great and beautiful country—everything will be beautiful and on a high level of dignity and grandeur.

Natural Law is infinitely stable and infinitely flexible. So in keeping with this universal quality of Natural Law, the Natural Law Party will be able to satisfy the tastes and ideals of all the people.

Everyone is aware that the existing parties cannot satisfy all the divergent trends and tendencies of society.

In the past one party has always taken delight in refuting the policies and confounding the actions of the other party. What the nation requires is one party with the ability to satisfy the divergent goals of our pluralistic society.

In order to save the precious national time, energy and intelligence, and to satisfy the holistic requirement of our family of commonwealth nations, it is vital that the Natural Law Party be unanimously brought to power.

A vote cast for any of the opposing parties is a vote for conflict. It is not only a wasted vote, but it is a destructive vote—an individual's contribution to political chaos.

A vote should not go to a party because it will tax the wealthy more, or because it will give the money to the poor. It should go to the party that can really design policies that can satisfy both the wealthy and the poor.

Only a party that can satisfy all the diverse needs of the nation deserves the support of every voter. The Natural Law Party is that party.

The policy of the Natural Law Party will be to consult and discuss national issues with the leaders of all the parties. We will honour the talented experienced statesmen of our country.

The Natural Law Party is the party of everyone who wants to produce a stable, integrated, coherent government.

We will fulfil the goals, plans and programmes of every party. Our planning programme focuses on the nation, not on a party. All of us together will raise the United Kingdom to great heights on every level and prove the United Kingdom to be the most creative country of our European Community and a great well-wisher and promoter of our commonwealth and the whole world.

We will keep the path of politics neat, clean, progressive and inspiring to all, nourishing to all, and satisfying to all.

We believe that politics is a pious profession that should not be maddled by conflict and controversy.

We uphold our Sovereign, Her Majesty the Queen. We lovingly and respectfully uphold the Church of England and any religion that is dear to anyone in our country.

The members of the Natural Law Party come from throughout the nation, from every walk of life, representing every professional field and all opinions of the people—Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democratic and Independent. They are scientists, artists, engineers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers, businessmen, economists, labourers, homemakers, and students.

Therefore the nation through our administration will receive the best of all principles, all philosophies, all sciences, all technologies, and all religions.

All candidates of the Natural Law Party have demonstrated greater orderliness of brain functioning, as indicated by increased EEG-coherence, and greater command of Natural Law indicated by their improved mind-body co-ordination in their achievement of Yogic Flying. We recommend that the voters of each constituency demand comparative brain functioning analysis from the candidates of other parties.

The integrated brain functioning of our candidates will enable them to remain balanced and steer the course of progress under all situations and circumstances. Functioning from their balanced state of mind, they will demonstrate their natural ability to co-ordinate all the different interests of the people, create integrated national consciousness and bring satisfaction to everyone through their coherent national administration.

We are confident that our administration based on Natural Law will satisfy the interests of everyone, and will uplift the current depression in national consciousness; and that the voters in every constituency will enjoy voting for Natural Law to create a perfect government in the United Kingdom.

This will be the first government in the world established on sound scientific principles.

Our nation is a composite of innumerable divergent values, and man-made law based on limited human intelligence cannot possibly satisfy all these trends and tendencies and guide them all in an orderly, evolutionary direction. Only through the support of Natural Law—the intelligence of Nature with its infinite organizing power—can a government fulfil the needs and ever-growing aspirations of all the people in the country.

With the support of Natural Law, our government can create the supreme quality of life—Heaven on Earth in the nation.

The ultimate goal of the Natural Law Party is for everyone to enjoy Heaven on Earth through the implementation of Maharishi's Master Plan to Create Heaven on Earth.

enabled, children, the sick, the disabled, and the poor with programmes to enlighten the individual's full potential.

Unemployment benefits will be supplemented by programmes to nurture creativity and self-sufficiency by the growth of higher states of consciousness and by effective training and re-training programmes. Programmes will also be introduced for the unemployed to give service in area of general good for the community.

Child benefit will be emphasized as a means to ensure that mothers are not forced to go out to work. This will be a means to ensure the strength and self-sufficiency of the next generation.

The prevention and promotion of

oriented health programmes of the Natural Law Party (see Health) will reduce the need for sickness benefits in the population.

Increases in pensions will be supplemented by programmes to ensure the continued good mental and physical health, well-being and happiness of the retired. These programmes will bring fulfillment to the role of the elderly in society.

LAW AND ORDER
The approach of the Natural Law Party to law and order will be to eliminate the very cause of crime—the inability of the population to think and act spontaneously in accord with natural law. This most basic lack in human life can fortunately be eliminated through

correct knowledge and proper training.

Whilst strategies of increasing the police force and reviewing judicial practices certainly have their value in promoting law and order, similar measures have been adopted by numerous past governments without any consistent and lasting effect in bringing crime under control.

Similarly, identifying potential delinquents at an early age has its value but is going to meet the rising wave of crime in national life.

The policies of the natural law party address the problem at its most fundamental level and eliminate the problem before it has arisen. The Natural Law Party will introduce the knowledge of natural law and programmes to develop higher states of consciousness at secondary school level to avert criminality before it has the chance to develop.

Without such education, no amount of vigilance on the part of the police, and no amount of law-making by the government will be able to maintain law and order.

In addition, the Natural Law Party will introduce programmes to generate a positive influence of cohesiveness and harmony (the Maharishi Effect) throughout society such that negative trends and tendencies cannot arise.

Extensive scientific research has validated the programmes of the Natural Law Party to reduce crime in society and bring the trends of life of the whole population spontaneously in accord with Natural Law.

If democracy is to be real, education must make the individual self-sufficient and enable him to fulfil his desires without jeopardizing the interests of others. As long as law enforcement is the only way to maintain law and order, it will stifle the individual's right to freedom.

The government established by the Natural Law Party will be democratic in the full sense of the term, since it will uphold law and order simply by educating the population to think and act spontaneously in accordance with Natural Law and by preventing stress from arising on both levels, individual and collective.

Such spontaneous compliance with law is the only way to maintain law and order. It will eliminate the basis of all crime and crown the government with success.

The wise voters of this election have the ability to choose whether to have effective law and order or to continue with the same old problems that have lingered on for generations.

DEFENCE
The Natural Law Party will create inviolable defence. Through the creation of coherence and harmony in world consciousness world peace is stable and no nation will threaten any other nation.

Our national defence will be maintained by training the armed forces to create and maintain an inviolable state of national consciousness through the Maharishi Effect—an indomitable influence of coherence and harmony in the nation—which has been verified many times over by scientific research.

This effect has its parallel in the Meissner Effect in physics—a state of coherence in which the magnetic field of a superconductor is expelled. The Maharishi Effect in national consciousness will prevent the birth of an enemy and thereby eliminate the need for destructive means of defence.

Our defence policy will maintain the present level of readiness of the armed forces and will promote continued research in higher quality of weaponry. However, our policy will be to refrain from the production of new weaponry—since the need for destructive defence capability will not arise in a situation in which the military is maintaining coherence in national and world consciousness.

The Natural Law Party will improve the effectiveness and creativity of the armed forces through new technologies of consciousness and Natural Law.

Our defence policy will be to refrain from creating fear in the world. Our nation will hold the balance of power in the world and prevent the birth of an enemy for anyone through the ability to nourish every nation through Natural Law.

ENVIRONMENT
The proposals of all parties to improve the quality of the environment are most laudable. The reality of these will be integrated into the policies of the Natural Law Party and wherever possible accelerated.

We will establish a separate minister at cabinet level whose sole responsibility will be the protection of the environment. We will promote research into the elimination of pollution in all fields of national life, paying special attention to the development of pollution-free industry and pollution-free means of generating energy.

In particular, our Party will explore exhaustively all potentially pollution-free means of generating power for transport such as solar power and energy from vegetable oils in an effort to reduce and eventually eliminate the damage to human life and the environment as a whole caused by the petrol driven engine.

We will also act to eliminate the damaging influence of the use of fossil fuels in the creation of energy. Furthermore, the Natural Law Party's acute sensitivity to the environment will not allow it to develop nuclear energy despite its economic advantages. The Natural Law Party maintains that life must never be sacrificed for the sake of economy.

We will also provide tax incentives for pollution-free industries and for those producing environmentally friendly products.

The Natural Law Party will regenerate the inner cities by developing park-lands with beautiful lakes, flowers and trees in the decaying centres of cities and redistributing the population to ideal villages and towns around the outskirts of the cities.

Above all the Natural Law Party will eliminate the basis of all pollution in the violation of Natural Law which in turn is due to the lack of development of higher states of consciousness.

AGRICULTURE

In recent years agriculture has made great advances in using isolated Laws of Nature to enhance the genetic quality of seeds and crops, to improve soil, and to bring marginal land under cultivation. However, these applications of partial values of Natural Law have also resulted in the creation of unforeseen imbalances such as soil exhaustion and ecological damage.

In addition, the use of harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides has damaged the health of the nation.

Therefore the Natural Law Party will promote pollution-free sustainable agriculture.

In addition, so technology has been available to ensure the support of the Laws of Nature governing the most important factor in agriculture—the weather.

As all the diverse expressions and tendencies in creation have their common source in the Unified Field of all the Laws of Nature, the Natural Law Party will train the farmers of the nation to harness this foundation of Natural Law and employ the skilled hand of Nature to quietly organize the infinitely complex network of factors influencing agricultural production.

With support of Natural Law the farmer will enjoy the dignity of a highly respected profession and will be honored as the nourishing father of the nation. Agriculture will provide the stable basis for a healthy life, a healthy economy, and a healthy administration.

UNIFYING AND DIVERSIFYING VALUE

The diversity of decisions suitable to every constituency will be based on the consistency level, as the diversity of the nation does not muddy the decision making process at the national level.

Thus, most of the diverse values should be sorted out on the consistency level and on the level of the country.

Natural Law has two values; the holistic value of Natural Law is equally available to galaxies, solar systems, mountains, rivers, and everywhere. Specific variations of this holistic quality of Natural Law are lively in different fields of space and time.

It is these specific values of Natural Law that are the basis of creating and maintaining specific geographic conditions and give rise to specific cultural values and differences in manners, customs and traditions of different nations.

Therefore the Natural Law Party will honor this unified and diversified nature of Natural Law and maintain diverse values of national life throughout the land, and in the same spirit honour different religions, cultures, different languages in the whole of our dear country.

THE UNITED KINGDOM, EUROPE, AND THE WORLD

In its approach to the different parts of the United Kingdom and to Europe, the Natural Law Party will be guided by the principle of 'Unity in Diversity' by which Natural Law governs the whole universe.

Whilst encouraging the specific values of Natural Law in every locality, the Natural Law Party will uphold the integrity of the nation as a whole. Similarly, with respect to Europe, the Natural Law Party will uphold the sovereignty of the United Kingdom while contributing maximum to the larger family of Europe.

The United Kingdom will become a nourishing influence to every nation and in particular will contribute to the elimination of poverty in developing countries throughout the world.

CONCLUSION

The Government of the United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. Constitutional Monarchy is fully available in the Constitution of the Universe—the theme of Administration through Natural Law.

The tradition of administration of the United Kingdom mirrors the absolute system of Nature's Government, where everything is set and everything is always evolutionary.

So when the Natural Law Party presents a programme to structure the national administration in the light of Natural Law, it is fully in conformity with our national heritage.

The Natural Law Party is rising to glorify the traditional administrative structure of the United Kingdom, and we are celebrating our own long standing tradition of unified administration of diverse nations in our British empire.

The Natural Law Party is celebrating this supreme scientific knowledge of Natural Law, and we are celebrating our own long standing tradition of unified administration in the United Kingdom.

At present when every nation is reaching for an ideal administration, and new constitutions are being written in many countries we are able to create this ideal structure of administration in the light of Natural Law, because of our complete scientific knowledge of Natural Law, and because of our nation's centuries long tradition of unified administration of diverse nations in our British empire.

More details on the above and other fields of national administration will be covered in the elaborated version of the Natural Law Party Manifesto.

For more information please contact: Natural Law Party, Mentmore, Buckinghamshire. Tel. 0296 66 22 11.

ECONOMY

The basic economic policy of the Natural Law Party will be in the spirit of Natural Law which is always nourishing, supportive and evolutionary. The Natural Law Party will follow the path of progress adopted by Natural Law which is growth and abundance through creativity.

In order for everyone in society to really become self-sufficient and stand on their own feet, and thereby reach the ideal of a free-market economy—life in affluence and sustained growth—we will implement programmes to develop the full creative potential of every individual and educate and train everyone how to achieve perfection in their profession.

At the same time we will create that influence in the collective national consciousness which will induce in the individual the ability to think and act spontaneously in accord with Natural Law, in accord with the evolutionary force of Nature, which sustains all progress and prosperity in creation.

Here in this approach, the field of economics will not be handled primarily on the basis of distribution of wealth, but on the basis of proper education and training to develop the natural ability of every individual to create wealth.

The Natural Law Party will promote the ideal of a free market economy. However, it will not exclude support by the government for any promising venture. Subsidies will be available to the business sector by the officers of these companies will be trained in management through Natural Law, so that they are effective and the funds are not wasted.

The laudable goal of a free market economy will be achieved with a well-coordinated and mutually supportive effort between the Treasury and the business sector. Both old industries and new developing ones will have proper support from the government along with education leading to self-sufficiency.

The Natural Law Party will gradually shift the economy from its existing unsteady path of economic past governments have resulted in continued national frustration and have strained either the market or the Treasury. This has resulted in stress in everyone in the country and also in international relations to a royal and steady path of economic growth, rapidly reaching its goal of a truly free market economy. We will achieve this through the knowledge and application of the fundamental principles of the natural evolutionary process upon which Nature's economy is based. In this way a better economy will be created not on the basis of hard work but on the basis of following Natural Law which works through the Principle of Least Action (Physics)—maximum accomplishment through minimum effort on the basis of infinite creativity.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

There is nothing that cannot be achieved through proper education. The Natural Law Party will introduce study and experience of Natural Law, and educate the whole population to think and act according to Natural Law.

This will lead to the violation of Natural Law, and this will eliminate the basis of stress, strain, and suffering.

With the support of Natural Law on the individual level and on the collective level of national consciousness—the highest expression of the individual and the nation will gain support from Nature. There is nothing that cannot be achieved through the support of Nature, because Natural Law governs the infinite diversity of the universe with perfect orderliness and without a problem.

Through education of Natural Law the nation will rise to any desired heights of achievement.

As all knowledge of Natural Law is structured in consciousness it is imperative to introduce the study of consciousness and research in consciousness in order to generate the influence of coherence and positivity in individual and national consciousness.

Consciousness is the most basic element of life and yet the present system of education does not provide the knowledge of consciousness.

A large body of scientific research has already validated programmes that are available to develop the full potential of human consciousness. These programmes include Maharishi's Transcendental Meditation which will therefore be introduced on all levels of higher education so that all the scientifically validated benefits of developing higher states of consciousness—higher creativity, intelligence, and learning ability—come to everyone.

Complete knowledge, experience and application of Natural Law will be made available to the whole population through existing training programmes, through regular education and part-time schooling. Tax benefits will be provided for companies introducing training schemes and for introducing the knowledge of Natural Law.

The government will train and provide teachers of the science and technology of consciousness in all levels of education and in engineering, business and industry, health, police, military, and in every area.

Science-based education will be raised to Unified Field based education—education based on complete knowledge and practical utilization of the Unified Field of Natural Law.

Our education policy will recommend more years in higher education and professional training. Tax benefits or educational allowances will be given to families who keep their children in education until at least 21 years of age.

Travel in the country and travel abroad will be a part of education, starting from A level and continuing to all levels of education, in order to give students experience of different cultures, develop in them an appreciation of our world family and foster international patriotism.

Management of schools and colleges will be improved and the government will ensure that educational institutions will be raised to the maximum level of efficiency.

TAXATION

The tax policy of the Natural Law Party will be characterized by low taxes for all, because as taxes are high then the free market economy cannot be a 'free' economy. A free market economy should mean 'create more wealth and feel free to enjoy it.' Therefore promoting a free market economy and at the same time taxing the people heavily is not a wise policy.

The need for high taxation stems from problems created throughout society by people violating the Laws of Nature. Violation of Natural Law is the root cause of all stress, sickness, inefficiency, lethargy, lack of creativity, and criminal behaviour, all of which create problems throughout society. The government is then expected to solve these problems and the only means that it knows to solve them is through the expenditure of wealth which must come from taxes.

The Natural Law Party will provide complete knowledge of Natural Law to the people so that they do not violate Natural Law and therefore do not create sickness and problems in life. This will automatically reduce government expenditure and the need for higher taxes. We will gradually reduce taxes in stages as problems throughout society are reduced.

Our tax policy will not do injustice to either the wealthy or the poor. To do equal justice to all it will be necessary to have some variations in taxes according to the income but in all fairness the everyone we shall aim at keeping a tax level of between 10 to 20%. The national tax policy should not deprive the successful and creative people of the country of their wealth otherwise no wealthy business, no wealthy businessman and no wealth will be left in the country.

The parental role of the government is to guide the people to raise their fortunes and when the people follow this policy of the government then it is wrong to unduly tax those who are most successful and who are most precious for the growth of the national economy.

This policy is also in favour of the poor because they are assured of remaining wealthy once they have become wealthy.

We will achieve the ideal of the free-market economy by giving people of low income the training to rise to a higher income.

We also plan to phase out the Value Added Tax (VAT) which has created a situation especially in the lower income brackets of society, such that every time they purchase something the heart shrinks at the word 'tax' added on to the price. If someone has to buy ten items in a day then ten times his heart shrinks, the curse goes to the government, and the joy of his buying is shadowed.

We will also phase out tax on the profits reinvested in a company or used to create new companies that employ more people. This will encourage businesses to re-invest their profits in creating new industries and new employment.

Finally, we will simplify the complicated tax and national insurance

systems. This will simplify administration and make it more efficient.

[The Natural Law Party is in a position to implement this low taxation policy because its prevention-oriented administration will disallow emergence of problems, negativity, crime and disease in the country, thereby increasing the efficiency of the administration and substantially reducing government expenditure.]

Natural Law based national administration will have all these unprecedented and inconceivable advantages for the government and the people.

To some this may appear as a pleasant dream, but our assumptions are well founded on our complete knowledge of how Natural Law functions in relation to national productivity and economy, which is verified through scientific research.]

HEALTH

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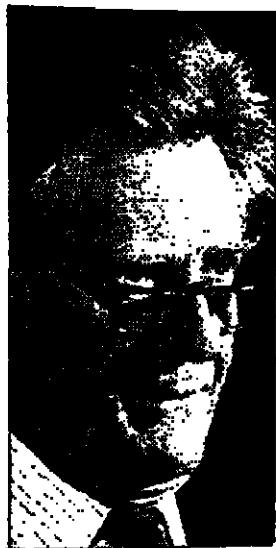
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This policy is also in favour

This page shows 119 of the candidates of the Natural Law Party together with the names of the constituencies in which they are standing. The Natural Law Party aims to have candidates in all 651 constituencies.

 Stephen Benson <i>Kenington</i>	 David Lines <i>Stafford</i>	 Lawrence Sheaff <i>Herefordshire SW</i>	 Peter Warburton <i>Southend W</i>	 Dr. Byron Rigby <i>Cambridgeshire SE</i>	 Dr. Geoffrey Clements PARTY LEADER <i>Buckingham</i>	 Farookh Anklesaria <i>Oxford E</i>	 Andrew Wilmot <i>North Down</i>	 John Renwick <i>Altrincham & Sale</i>	 Richard Johnson <i>City of London & Westminster</i>	 Hugh Godfrey <i>Wimbledon</i>	
 Guy Hatchard <i>Epsom and Ewell</i>	 Lesley Davis <i>Weyford</i>	 James Barratt <i>Christchurch</i>	 John Ashforth <i>Nottingham E</i>	 John Shephard <i>Ravensbourne</i>	 Diane Dertsen <i>Chipping Barnet</i>	 Angela Hatchard <i>Sutton & Cheam</i>	 Sally Cutting <i>Witney</i>	 Andrew Foss <i>Beaconsfield</i>	 Bruno D'Arcy <i>Aylesbury</i>	 Bill Stevens <i>Battersea</i>	 Dobie Gilmour <i>Bedfordshire SW</i>
 Jim Anderson <i>Mid Ulster</i>	 Peter Tong <i>Bolton NE</i>	 Lewis Walsh <i>Bolton SE</i>	 Jacqueline Phillips <i>Bolton W</i>	 Susan Holmes <i>Bournemouth E</i>	 David Cross <i>Bristol W</i>	 Mike Sullivan <i>Bury N</i>	 Norma Sullivan <i>Bury S</i>	 Joanna Lillis <i>Bury St Edmunds</i>	 Francis Chalmers <i>Cambridgeshire SW</i>	 Sally Curphey <i>Canterbury</i>	 Nick Monnas <i>Chelsea</i>
 Henry Brighouse <i>Cheltenham</i>	 Tom Griffith-Jones <i>Chesham & Amersham</i>	 Claire Linden <i>Conwy</i>	 Russell France <i>Daventry</i>	 John Small <i>Dulwich</i>	 David Rae <i>Edinburgh, Pentlands</i>	 James Macrae <i>Finchley</i>	 Duncan Paterson <i>Glasgow, Hillhead</i>	 Alaric Law <i>Guildford</i>	 John Windsor <i>Hackney North & Stoke Newington</i>	 Kevin Turner <i>Hammersmith</i>	 Mike Penn <i>Hazel Grove</i>
 Diana Harding <i>Hertsmere</i>	 Andrew Planton <i>Islington N</i>	 Eric Kaplan <i>Ipswich</i>	 Clive Daly <i>Southampton</i>	 Voeva Rubin <i>Knowsley N</i>	 Robert Thurston <i>Leeds South & Morley</i>	 David Fawcett <i>Leicestershire NW</i>	 Jenny Rosta <i>Leicester W</i>	 Patricia Saunders <i>Leicester S</i>	 Sue Lincoln <i>Blaby</i>	 Adrian T aylor <i>Leigh</i>	 Richard Archer <i>Leyton</i>
 Peter Chandler <i>Liverpool, Garston</i>	 John Collins <i>Liverpool, Riverside</i>	 Robert Johnstone <i>Liverpool, West Derby</i>	 Keith Buscombe <i>Luton N</i>	 David Cooke <i>Luton S</i>	 Frederick Ingram <i>Maidstone</i>	 Ron Baxter <i>Manchester, Blackley</i>	 Clive Menhinick <i>Manchester, Withington</i>	 Paul Kember <i>Medway</i>	 Gerard Valente <i>Mid Kent</i>	 Martin Simson <i>Milton Keynes NE</i>	 Bryan Irving <i>Herefordshire N</i>
 Barry Spivack <i>Northampton N</i>	 Anne Goodwin <i>Northavon</i>	 Julianne Christou <i>Nottingham S</i>	 Sheila Dalling <i>Oldham W</i>	 Tom Pringle <i>Plymouth, Drake</i>	 Janet Ayliffe <i>Preston</i>	 Paul Levy <i>Purley</i>	 Nicky Holmes <i>Ribble Valley</i>	 Peter Wakeling <i>Sevenoaks</i>	 Susan Parry <i>Caernarfon</i>	 David Collins <i>Devon West & Torridge</i>	 Anthony Hardy <i>Slough</i>
 Stuart Withers <i>Southport</i>	 David Lucas <i>St Albans</i>	 Dinah Grice <i>Mid Staffordshire</i>	 David Saunders <i>Stockport</i>	 Michael Twine <i>Stratford on Avon</i>	 John Parsons <i>Streatham</i>	 Felicity Kaplan <i>Suffolk, Coastal</i>	 Julia Wilmot <i>Suffolk, Central</i>	 Chris Adamson <i>Herefordshire SW</i>	 Maureen Birchall <i>Tarmon</i>	 Robin Bradshaw <i>Tonbridge & Malling</i>	 Guy Harvey <i>Tooting</i>
 Margot Hartley <i>Truro</i>	 Ted Fenna <i>Tunbridge Wells</i>	 Nigel Kahn <i>Vauxhall</i>	 Brian Davies <i>Warrington N</i>	 Mike Rainao <i>Warrington S</i>	 James Brewster <i>Warwick & Leamington</i>	 David Hook <i>Waverley</i>	 Eva Lucas <i>Welwyn & Hatfield</i>	 Jonathan Hinde <i>Westminster N</i>	 Annie Taylor <i>Wigan</i>	 Mike Grenville <i>Windsor & Maidenhead</i>	 Sarah Hayward <i>Woolwich</i>
 Tom Aisbitt <i>Suffolk S</i>	 David Hughes <i>Wrexham</i>	 Marek Lorys <i>Ealing N</i>	 John Darby <i>Fulham</i>	 Annie Martell <i>Harrow E</i>	 Elizabeth Lines <i>Lancashire W</i>	 David Richards <i>Rushcliffe</i>	 Ian Docker <i>Penrith & The Border</i>	 Dr. Graham Barnett <i>Southwark & Bermondsey</i>	 Jonathan Leslie <i>Hendon S</i>	 Greg Phillips <i>Worsley</i>	 Dr. Richard Prosser <i>Hampstead & Highgate</i>



Heseltine: denounces "the dangerous left"

Parties offer voters a stark choice in the battle for London

The battle for London has produced some of the sharpest political choices for voters in an election campaign that has been marked by complaints that many of the policies of the two main parties are virtually indistinguishable.

Labour, which needs to win at least 20 seats in the capital to be sure of a Commons majority, has promised a directly elected London authority. The Tories have sought to trump them with a cabinet committee to watch over the capital.

Although the loyalty of most voters will no doubt be decided by economic considerations, Londoners, like the

Labour offers the vote; the Tories a cabinet committee. Londoners will decide, Douglas Broom reports

Scots and the Welsh, are being offered real choices by the parties about how they should be governed. Labour and the Liberal Democrats are committed to devolving power to a new tier of regional government, but the Conservatives have set their face against what they assert would be a recipe for more bureaucracy.

John Major shares Margaret Thatcher's belief that creating new tiers of local government has nothing to do

with improving local democracy and everything to do with creating jobs for the boys. Ministers invoke the spectres of the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan counties, all abolished by the Tories in 1986, to justify their opposition to the creation of a new layer of local government. Instead, the Conservatives would leave local power in the hands of the 32 boroughs and the City corporation and create a cabinet sub-committee for London, chaired by the environment secretary.

A junior transport minister would take charge of the capital's roads and oversee rail, buses and Underground and the environment secretary would convene a private-sector forum to promote the capital and launch a London 2000 heritage initiative.

Opinion polls consistently suggest that Londoners want "a voice for London" but nobody has yet deciphered what they mean. Labour's slimline Greater London authority and the Liberal Democrats' strategic authority for London are their parties' attempts to provide that voice. Both would be directly elected and both would take charge of strategic planning, transport and waste disposal. Labour's new body would administer its London Leisure card scheme giving discounts on cultural and sporting events to Londoners.

The Liberal Democrats' new body would exercise the powers over education in the capital now wielded from Whitehall by the education department and Labour's would assume the powers of its other regional assemblies.

Tony Travers, director of the Greater London group at the London School of Economics, said: "There is a

genuine feeling, as opinion polls suggest, that people emotionally want somebody or something to represent London. The biggest pressures to do something about London come from the collapsed state of the public transport system, traffic and litter. The problems of the public transport system are the legacy of 30 years of under-investment... and litter is the responsibility of boroughs."

He thought that insofar as they swung votes, Labour's proposals, "which are easily comprehensible, will persuade those who want a strategic authority to vote

for them rather than the more pragmatic approach of the Tories."

The Conservatives sought to take the initiative yesterday with renewed warnings about the cost of Labour's plans. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, led the assault asserting that Labour's plan for a directly elected Greater London authority would "undermine the government of the day."

Launching the Conservatives' manifesto for the capital, *The Best Future for London*, Mr Heseltine said that Labour local government in London was "a byword for high taxes, waste and the dangerous left."

ROBIN MAYES

A free Scotland would stay in EC

Nationalists outline steps they will take to full independence

BY KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party launched its general election manifesto yesterday with a claim from Jim Sillars, its deputy leader, that it was "the best ever set of proposals to be put to the Scottish people. Its words throb with life and vitality."

Independence in Europe, Make it happen now, an 18-page document, says that Scots should stop blaming others for their problems, face their responsibilities and start governing themselves as an independent nation within the European Community.

The SNP's goal is to win most of Scotland's 72 seats at the election. The manifesto outlines the process by which the party would then proceed to full independence within six months. Should the nationalists win a majority of seats, they would claim immediately the right to run an interim administration at the Scottish Office while starting negotiations with Westminster on the divisions of assets and liabilities.

A final agreement would be registered with the United Nations and Scotland would continue as a member of the EC. During that period, a written constitution would be drawn up and the final declaration, incorporating a bill of rights, put to the Scottish people in a referendum. Within a month, the first Scottish general election would be called, with voting based on proportional representation.

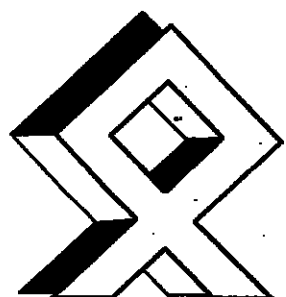
Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, who unveiled his party's manifesto in Glasgow, said that the Scottish people were faced with a straight choice on April 9: "A choice between a dismal past and a better future. A choice to go forward into the mainstream of Europe or be stuck in a backwater of Britain."

"Only the Scottish National Party is offering a way forward which will produce economic progress and social justice. No other party is fighting for political freedom for Scotland and economic

freedom for Scots. That economic freedom means dignity, peace and prosperity. It means an attack on poverty and real action to create jobs."

The SNP's medium-term recovery strategy, published with the manifesto, envisages 200,000 new jobs during the first four years of independence. That will be funded in part by some of the North Sea oil and gas revenues as well as by re-allocating resources from the Trident nuclear weapons programme into public spending.

An independent Scotland will retain strong conventional defence forces co-operating with other European countries. There will be no nuclear



weapons, with all present systems and installations ordered off Scottish soil. While Nato strategy remained nuclear-based, the SNP would seek to disengage from its command structure, although that would happen in a harmonious way.

The only important change that the SNP plans to the Tories' personal tax structure is the removal of the national insurance ceiling. That would fund a 20 per cent basic rate on the first £3,000 of taxable income. Pensions would be increased immediately by £6.35 for a single person and by £10.10 for a married couple. The party eventually wants to see a common European pension of £90 for a single person and £130 for a couple.

A new programme of pub-

lic housing would be paid for by writing off the capital debt of £2.7 billion. Tenants would retain the right to buy their council homes and, in the private sector, mortgage tax relief would be retained. Health care would continue to be provided free under a revitalised health service, with a 15 per cent spending increase over four years paid for in part by a similar increase in tobacco duty.

All persons over 16 would have the right to vote for MPs in a single-chamber parliament, with fixed-term elections held every four years. Aid to Third World countries would be increased. Mr Salmond said there would be a comprehensive review of the social security system, with benefits increased by 10 per cent over four years in real terms. Child benefit would be raised to £10 a week for each child.

"The forthcoming general election will be Scotland's independence election. The SNP is a responsible, modern political party firmly rooted in the tradition of European social democracy. The SNP's policy of independence in Europe will bring stability to the governance of Scotland. We will negotiate firmly but fairly with Westminster to produce a settlement which is in the interests of all our people, yet leaves us as England's friendly neighbour," the manifesto said.

The Scottish Conservative party also launched its manifesto yesterday, pledging that it would maintain the union in its present form. Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, speaking in Edinburgh, said: "Underpinning this entire manifesto is our unequivocal commitment to the union. It is our profound belief that the aspirations of the people of Scotland for greater prosperity and an even better quality of life will only be met if Scotland remains a full and equal partner in the union. That is why we, alone of all the parties in this election, support a United Kingdom."

of the Tory and Labour parties who are obsessed with the sovereignty of the United Kingdom, and hostile to the democratic development of a confederal Europe."

The manifesto, *Towards 2000*, says the ideal of self-government is the keystone that unites the party's political philosophy. "In the Nineties, full self-government is no longer a distant aim but an urgent necessity. As we rejoice in the renewed nationhood of long-oppressed and submerged nations in Europe, we feel a growing impatience that Wales is falling behind."

Mr Wigley said that Tory rule had been disastrous for the principality, driving small farmers off the land, causing district hospitals to close, damaging regional and community infrastructure and causing a housing crisis. David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said that any move to change the present system fundamentally would undermine the position of the secretary of state within the cabinet and result in unnecessary increases in the tax burden for the principality. Mr Hunt said he intended to establish after the election a Welsh economic council to ensure greater cohesion and a more united effort on the part of the principality's main employers and employees' organisations.

He also promised to set up a new training and education department and to introduce a new Welsh Language Act to end the present superiority in law of English.

He added: "It was once argued that nationalists were separatists; today, the only separatists in United Kingdom politics are the old guard



donia, are convinced that their argument for nationhood can win them at least two more seats.

Mr Wigley believes that Labour's pledge to create an assembly within five years of taking office now falls far short of national aspirations and could provide the ideal platform for realisation of the old dream. "If Scotland becomes independent, then Labour may never again form a government. The Tories, with six members, have ruled without mandate."

The Welsh secretary, he added, did not even represent a Welsh constituency and was little more than a governor general. Mr Wigley added: "Our objective is full self-government for Wales within the EC. That gives us in a Welsh parliament elected here in Wales, by the people of Wales, the full control over all those policy areas that can be run efficiently and effectively at the all-Wales level."

He added: "It was once argued that nationalists were separatists; today, the only separatists in United Kingdom politics are the old guard

of the Tory and Labour parties who are obsessed with the sovereignty of the United Kingdom, and hostile to the democratic development of a confederal Europe."

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'Vote for someone else' plea

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THEY were not demanding world revolution, reform of the judiciary or even renationalisation. The party that rose from the ashes of the British Communist party joined the election campaign yesterday with the message: "Don't vote for us."

With support from Moscow no longer forthcoming

DEMOCRATIC LEFT

and every communist symbol in Europe toppled, the Democratic Left has decided that there is little room for old-style Marxist-Leninism at the hustings. At the first press conference since the party's transformation last year, there was a call for nothing more radical than tactical voting.

The Democratic Left is not fielding any candidates this year: to do so would distract its 1,400 members from working towards a Tory defeat. Instead, the executive condoned the defacing of Conservative election posters as a political tactic. With the Tories having more money than the other parties, strategic defacement would make the fight fairer, it was argued.

Nina Temple, party secretary, said the action amounted to "monkey warfare rather than guerrilla".



Just say no: Nina Temple of the Democratic Left unveils a negative message

Male 'nuns' campaign for right to gay marriage

BY BILL FROST

TWO bridegrooms in full morning dress broke off their lingering kiss on the steps of Westminster Register Office yesterday afternoon and took up loudhailers to urge Messrs Major, Kinnock and Ashdown to put sexual politics on the election agenda. A man in a nun's habit blew a whistle and scratched his heavy five o'clock shadow before waving a placard urging the parties to "Legalise Queer Partners".

Five million gay votes hung on the willingness of the party leaders to back the legalisation of marriage between partners of the same sex. OutRage, the homosexual equal rights group which organised yesterday's

demonstration, said. Champagne corks popped, male nuns adjusted their wimples, and women in men's suits cheered as four couples marched into the register office to file for applications to marry.

Register office officials took a dim view of the celebrations, sending each couple packing. Back on the steps, the thwarted would-be-weds embraced, drank more champagne and said that their campaign had only just begun. The political parties were denying them a basic right guaranteed to heterosexuals.

Lynn Sutcliffe and Sarah Hews, both aged 25, had hired wedding dresses for the occasion. After being shown the door by the registrar, they pleaded with the politicians to give

them the same legal rights as married heterosexuals. "Natural justice dictates that we should have the same treatment, including recognition as next of kin for the purposes of inheritance, compassionate leave from work, and visiting rights in hospitals and prisons," Ms Sutcliffe said.

David Arnold, aged 34, and Martin Maynard, aged 30, said as they left the register office: "We have been together longer than Prince Andrew and Fergie. Why shouldn't the law recognise our relationship formally; after all, unlike some, we intend to stay together." Mr Arnold said.

Tossing their posies to the crowd, the gay couples posed for photographs beneath an ornamental arch

festooned with pink and white frills and supported by two hirsute nuns. "We have been told by the registrar that in order to marry, partners must be respectively male and female and thus we do not qualify," Martin Maynard said.

OutRage campaigners said they would not be satisfied until the politicians had agreed to acknowledge and correct a miscarriage of natural justice. They pointed out that Denmark had granted lesbian and gay couples the right to civil marriage three years ago and 15 local authorities in The Netherlands had introduced similar legislation. "We feel our relationship is just as loving and just as valid as any heterosexual marriage," Ms Sutcliffe said.

State income pledged for all Environment stays the first concern

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Green party launched its manifesto yesterday with demands for huge pollution taxes on conventional transport and energy systems, and a compensatory basic wage for all.

The Greens, fielding more than 250 candidates but marginalised in the polls, are the only party supporting unilateral nuclear disarmament. A Green government would cancel Trident, scrap all nuclear power stations and withdraw from Nato. But the party has abandoned its former commitment to withdraw from the European Community.

The Greens would cancel the road-building programme and replace it with expanded public transport, including more cycle paths, canals and railways. They aim to cut Britain's emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas causing the greenhouse effect, by up to 80 per cent by the year 2005. That would be achieved by a campaign to include free distribution of expensive energy-efficient light bulbs, and by large increases in energy and motor vehicle taxation, including a "carbon tax" that would mean a big rise in the price of petrol and other fossil fuels.

Natural resources rather than people should bear the brunt of taxation, the party believes, with national insurance and income tax on low wages abolished and replaced by a basic income scheme "an automatic weekly payment to everybody throughout life, regardless of sex or marital status, non-means-tested and tax-free". The party said the world faced



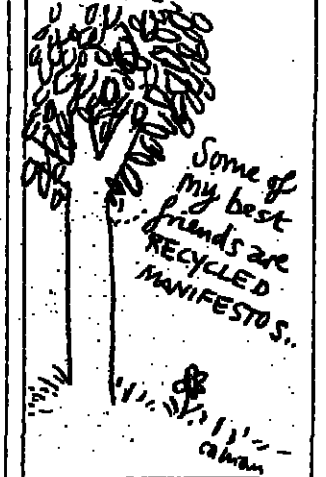
ecological disaster through overpopulation and climate change unless radical solutions were adopted.

"Unlike the other parties, the Greens alone are facing up to the real issues," said Sara Parkin, chairman of the party's streamlined nine-strong executive, brought in last year to fight the election after a bitter internal struggle. The Tories, Labour and Liberal Democrats, Ms Parkin said, had abandoned all attempts to stitch the environment into the fabric of their social and economic policies.

The Greens are spending about £450,000 on the campaign and are standing in 252 constituencies (not yet a final figure). But polls show that the recession has done for environmental concern as a political issue in Britain, threatening electoral disaster for what many perceive as a single-issue party.

The Greens are at 1 per cent or lower in the polls, compared with their 15 per cent in the 1989 European elections; and from being top of Mori's list of important issues facing the country, in July 1989, and second in July 1990, the environment is now eleventh, with only 7 per cent of respondents citing it unprompted as a matter of concern. However, Jean Lambert, candidate for Walthamstow and one of the party's two main speakers, denied yesterday that "the pound in your pocket" was the voters' only important concern.

"I was in Cornwall last week and many beaches still have sewage washing up on them," she said. "In an area of high unemployment, quality of life is extremely important, as people do not have the financial means to move anywhere else. So water, the quality of air and housing are all important."



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Mireen captures
actress award

Conservatives fear being left out after South African referendum defeat

Pressure grows for right to join talks

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's far-right Conservative Party, heavily defeated in the white referendum on political reform, may join constitutional negotiations within weeks.

The party's parliamentary caucus yesterday issued a statement that it was discussing strategies for continuing its "search for freedom". However, a senior source in the party said there was growing support for participation in the multiparty negotiating forum, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), under certain conditions. Koos van der Merwe, the former chief whip, has made no secret of his wish to secure the best possible deal for Conservative whites, and particularly Afrikaners, at the negotiating table.

The source said: "The bulk of the party is moving in the direction of Mr van der

Merwe. A decision might be expected "in a few weeks".

The second plenary session of Codesa, which will consider proposals for an interim multiracial government, is due to be held on April 24 and 25. It could be the last opportunity for the Conservatives to join the forum before being left behind by agreements on power-sharing.

Mr van der Merwe said that he favoured a negotiated settlement which would represent a break with the past, but which would provide for Afrikaner independence. He acknowledged that there was movement in the party, but did not anticipate a split.

While he did not envisage the Conservative joining Codesa in its present form, they were discussing options with several of the participants, notably the leaders of the Bophuthatswana, KwaZulu and Ciskei tribal homelands.

The rapprochement between Mr van der Merwe and the ruling National Party was apparent from extraordinary scenes in the all-white parliamentary chamber shortly after the referendum result was announced. Basted du Plessis, the finance minister, shook Mr van der Merwe's hand warmly, and three other ministers strolled up for a chat. When President de Klerk walked in, Mr van der Merwe jumped up and congratulated him. Mr van der Merwe may well swing many of the party's 42 members of

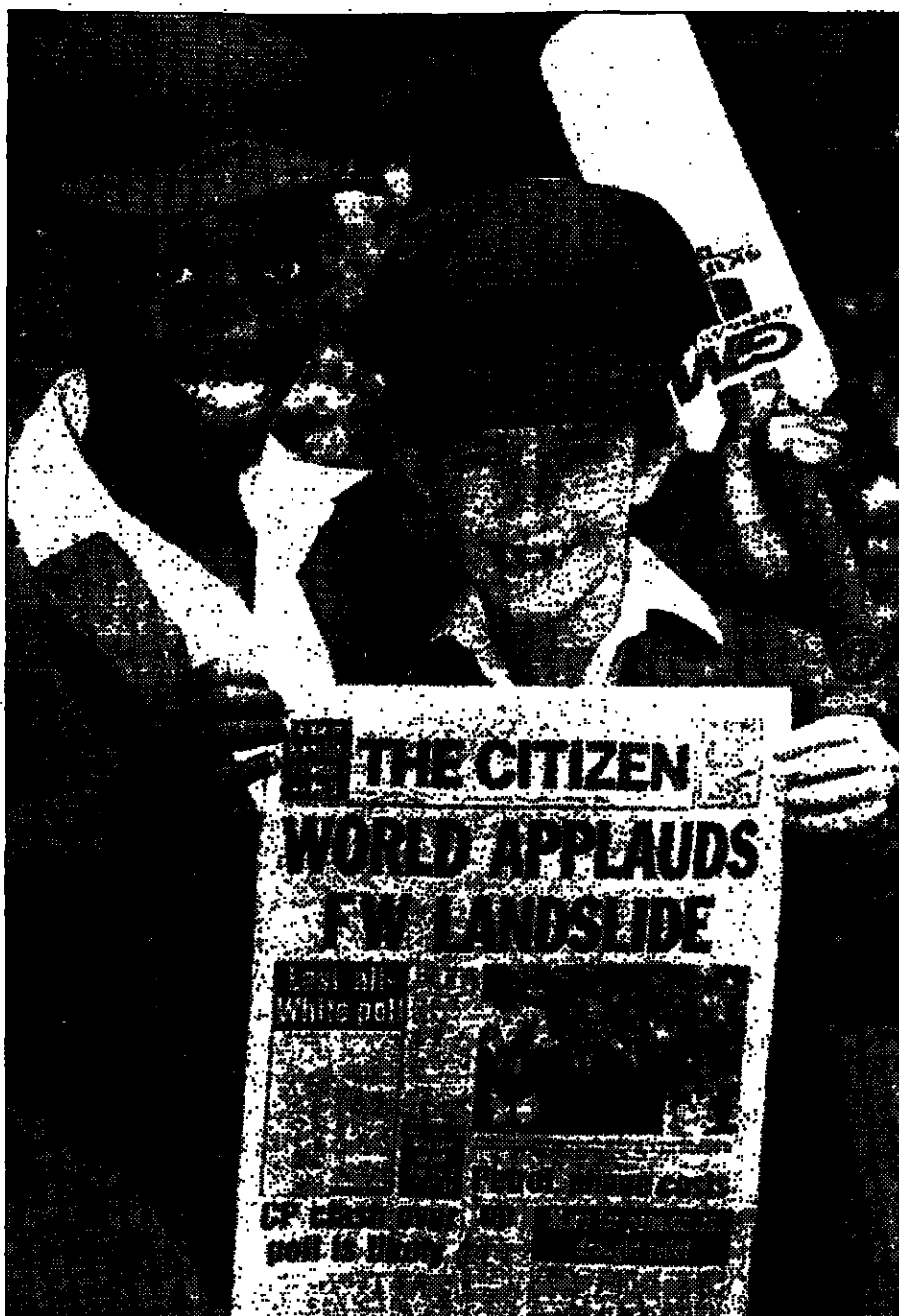
parliament to his more pragmatic views, but he is unlikely to convince the diehards.

Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, joined Mr de Klerk yesterday in urging the right wing to join the negotiations. Mr Mandela said the Conservatives would be welcome at Codesa, "no matter how reprehensible their policies might be". He said that Eugene Terre-Blanche, the leader of the paramilitary Afrikaner Resistance Movement, should also make an unequivocal commitment to the negotiating process.

Mr Terre-Blanche was in no mood for reconciliation. Predicting that whites would flock to his neo-Nazi movement, he said: "Our time has come. We are heading for a terrible revolution, we have to prepare ourselves."

● Johannesburg: A right-wing extremist was sentenced to death yesterday for sending a parcel bomb which killed a man he believed worked for the ANC. Lood van Schaik, aged 53, pleaded guilty to murdering Nicholas Cruise, a computer consultant, in October 1990. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for the attempted murder of two black people who were injured by a bomb that he had planted at a Pretoria taxi rank.

No one has been hanged in South Africa since Mr de Klerk began dismantling apartheid. (Reuters)



Sporting chance: Moabi Malebe and Matthew Rosen, from a multiracial school in Johannesburg, celebrate the referendum result yesterday

Tribal war opens split in Kenya party leadership

As fighting spreads in western Kenya, growing divisions on ethnic lines threaten to tear apart the ruling Kanu party. Sam Kiley writes from Molo

Kenya's ruling party is being split along tribal lines after three weeks of ethnic fighting in the west of the country which has left at least 50 people dead and hundreds homeless. Ministers inside the Kenya African National Union (Kanu) accused the government of orchestrating the tribal clashes.

President Moi, who has ruled Kenya through Kanu since 1978, has been accused many times of being behind attacks by members of his Kalenjin tribe on other tribes in the west of the country. But this week a junior minister unleashed a near-hysterical attack on the government, when he took off his shoe in the Kenyan assembly and banged it on a table, shouting "Kanu are killers" and aimed a punch at another MP who tried to stop the outburst.

Ojuang K'Ombudo, a member of the Luo tribe and an assistant minister of the environment, was dismissed from the house by the Speaker, and marched out with three fellow Luo Kanu MPs, after shouting that "the Luos are being hunted and killed everywhere".

The minister's outburst, which is likely to result in his dismissal from both the government and Kanu, reflects the rising tension caused by ethnic fighting which started in western Kenya last year and has since spread north and east. It also shows the level of dismay felt by opposition and government figures at the administration's slow response to a situation many believe could lead to civil war.

Opposition leaders are especially worried at the government's use of the security services to suppress dissent since multipartyism was allowed in December last year.

In Nakuru, two young men lay bleeding from gunshot wounds in the reception area of police headquarters as heavily armed policemen beat scores of other youths arrested at

random on the streets of the provincial capital. The two wounded youths received no medical attention for half an hour. Then they were flung into the back of a Land-Rover and driven away by police. No policeman at the scene was able to say why the two had been shot or why they were in custody. Nor could they explain why an apparently normal day in the sleepy administrative centre had been shattered by hundreds of police wielding clubs and firing tear gas and rifles on the streets, as they flung young men into the backs of dumper trucks before taking them into detention.



Further west, around Molo, where 17 people were killed on Monday and at least another 10 since then in fighting between Kalenjin warriors, people had fewer complaints about the police.

Unlike much of Kenya, the former White Highlands area is ethnically mixed as a result of settlement schemes. One prominent Kikuyu farmer, like many other interviewed on a tour of the area, claimed that the Kalenjin warriors, distinguished by their uniform red and white kangas (sarongs) tied across their shoulders, who attacked from the nearby woods, had been assisted in the past by the police.

"But now they have changed the police," the farmer said. "They are coming from more mixed tribes and are doing a very good job. They even killed two warriors who turned out to be soldiers on leave from the Kenyan army."

Brazilians die in mud avalanche

Contagous At least 21 Brazilians were killed, most of them old women and children, and more than 60 injured when an avalanche of mud and sand tore through a shanty town.

"There is practically no chance now of finding anyone alive," said Lieutenant-Colonel Joel de Oliveira Sebastiao, the military police commander. (Reuters)

Spy jailed

Jakarta: An East Timorese woman, aged 29, was jailed for five years for stealing classified military papers that later were leaked abroad. The judge said she had deliberately undermined the Jakarta government and damaged Indonesia's reputation. (AP) L&T section, page 4

Son spared

Lusaka: The death sentence passed on Kambarage Kaunda, a son of the former Zambian president, has been quashed. The supreme court accepted a plea of self-defence in the murder of a 20-year-old woman in 1989. (Reuters)

Punjab curfew

Ludhiana: Indian police have imposed a curfew on the Punjab city of Ludhiana to curb a violent Hindu backlash after at least 38 people were killed in 24 hours of Sikh separatist violence in the state. (Reuters)

Seoul mourns

Seoul: Francesca Rhee, the widow of Syngman Rhee, the first South Korean president and a leader of the struggle against Japanese annexation, has died here aged 92. (Reuters) Obituary, page 19

Japanese minister linked to scandal

FROM IRENE KUNII IN TOKYO

KIICHI Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, battered by poll defeats and scandal revelations, suffered a new setback yesterday when his transport minister was linked to a bribery scandal threatening to become the biggest in postwar Japan.

The minister, Keiwa Okuda, confirmed reports that the Sagawa Kyubin transport group, under investigation for possible bribery of scores of politicians, paid the salary of one of his political secretaries between 1988 and 1990. "Minister Okuda said that Sagawa had paid the salary of one of his secretaries, but denied that there was anything wrong with that," a ministry official said.

Mr Okuda is the first cabinet minister to be linked to the Sagawa scandal. The development will further weaken Mr Miyazawa's precarious hold on power, political analysts said.

Rumours have circulated for months that senior politicians were behind the heavy success of the Sagawa Kyubin group, which grew at breakneck speed to become the country's second largest parcel delivery network. Prosecu-

tors have arrested three former Sagawa executives and are investigating whether the group bribed more than 200 members of parliament, many of them said to be from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Two other LDP legislators admitted last month to having connections to the Sagawa group, but said there were no grounds for suspicion of bribery-taking.

Mr Okuda, elected from Kanazawa in west-central Japan, admitted that the Hokuriku Sagawa Kyubin, a group affiliate based in Kanazawa, paid the salary of former aide Toshio Nakanishi for about 2½ years until August 1990. "The minister said he had no knowledge that Sagawa was providing the money to the secretary, then employed at his political office in Kanazawa," the official said.

He said that only after Mr Okuda ordered his Kanazawa office to check the reports did he learn that the Sagawa affiliate had paid the aide. "The minister said the salary did not constitute a political donation and was therefore not declared." (Reuters)

Thai attacks drive Burmese troops from border area

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

THAI armed forces yesterday drove hundreds of Burmese soldiers out of Thailand from entrenched positions. They had taken up to launch attacks on Karen rebels from the rear. They left behind at least 20 dead and many heavy weapons, according to Thai officers, who estimated that more than 50 Burmese have been killed in Thailand in the past week.

This retaliation is the most severe action Thailand has taken against the Burmese for many years despite repeated violations of the border during attempts to quell the long Karen rebellion. It followed a "final" warning from General Issarapong Non-pakdee, the Thai deputy army chief and interior minister, who threatened "strong retaliation" unless the Burmese respected Thai sovereignty.

Burmese commanders across the border had angered the Thais by sending them belligerent warnings to pull back their forces unless they wanted them hit by air and artillery attacks. They also accused the Thais of giving sanctuary to Karen rebels and demanded that these should be sent back. More

than 60,000 civilian refugees from Burma, mainly Karens, are in Thai border areas. Thai aircraft and artillery attacked Burmese positions in two different border areas for four successive days. Mortars shelled retreating Burmese troops. The biggest attack occurred at Doi Seang, 25 miles west of Mae Hong Son town. Intercepted radio messages indicated that 30 Burmese were killed or wounded. After retreating about 100 survivors regrouped on the border last night.

The Thai army heard the Burmese radioing for reinforcements and more weapons ordering them to go back into Thailand to retrieve abandoned weapons. Karen guerrilla officers in the area said they had been in action against fresh Burmese troops. Thai aircraft and mortars also bombed Burmese positions on the eastern side of the Moei river, opposite the Karen base at Kawmoora, one of their two main bases still surviving. Some Burmese were still there last night, Thai officers said.

Emphasising their new stance, the Thais have sent 1,500 extra troops to the border in the past week as well as more heavy artillery and mortars. Aircraft are on constant alert at bases in western and central Thailand.

Thai officers, who have been reluctantly obeying orders to ignore border violations in the interests of good relations, have welcomed the chance to deal rigorously with the intruders.

AS THE two Koreas yesterday failed to agree on mutual inspection of nuclear facilities, an American official served warning that North Korean prevarication was bringing matters to a critical point.

The two countries inaugurated a joint nuclear control committee in the border village of Panmunjom but could make no progress on the vital inspection of nuclear sites which would make any agreement worthwhile. Richard

Solomon, the American Assistant Secretary of State, urged North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to inspection. "What is of concern is whether these agreements would be translated into reality. We are increasingly concerned that these agreements only remain on paper."

The inter-Korean committee met to work out a specific inspection plan but at the end of a two-hour session no headway had been made. It will meet again on April 1

after examining each other's draft proposals.

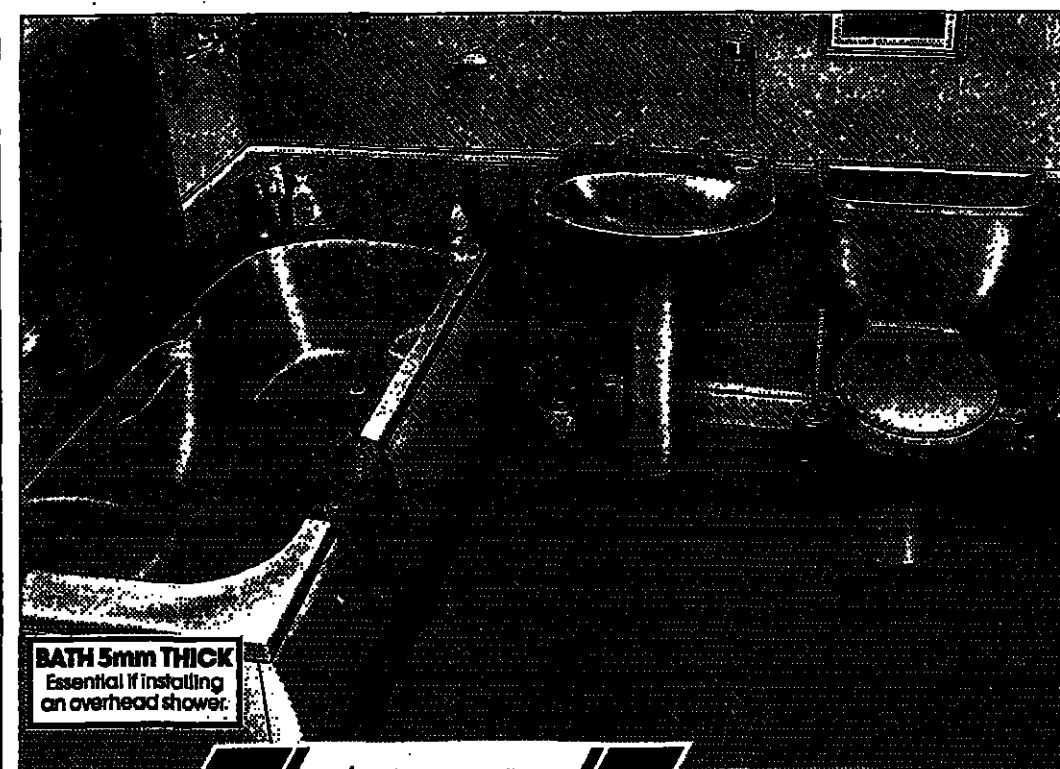
Last weekend, North and South Korea reached an agreement calling for mutual inspection of their nuclear plants within three months. The accord does not appear to hold the North to a strict schedule. The failure to reach agreement is being seen in the region as a sign that Kim Il Sung, the North Korean ruler, is stalling in the hope that the world will forget about the whole problem.

North stalls on nuclear checks

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

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Mirren captures best actress award

Helen Mirren, aged 42, was yesterday named Best TV Actress of 1991 for her role as a tough woman detective who solves a murder case despite being hounded by the prejudice of male colleagues. The star of Granada's *Prime Suspect* was among 12 winners of the Broadcasting Press Guild Television and Radio Awards. The four-hour film,



Mirren: honoured for tough detective role

shown over two nights, also won the guild's award for television's Best Single Drama of 1991.

Robert Lindsay, who played manic politician Michael Murray in Alan Bleasdale's *GBH*, received the Best TV Actor of 1991 award. *GBH*, a hard-hitting, almost real-life portrait of corrupt politics in

a northern city, won the Best Drama Series/Serial Award. Alan Bennett, in a new category, won the Writer's Award for his BBC comedy about the Anthony Blunt scandal, *A Question of Attribution*. Alistair Cooke was Radio Broadcaster of the Year for Radio 4's veteran show, *Letter From America*.

Underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, aged 82, has called on the United Nations to adopt guidelines to ensure a healthy planet for the future. He will present soon his "Bill of Rights for Future Generations", as a proposed amendment to the UN's charter.

Olympic silver medal runner Peter Elliott becomes an honorary doctor today at a special ceremony at Sheffield University. Elliott, who picked up his medal in the 1500 metres at the 1988 games in Seoul, will receive a Doctor of Laws.

The renowned Japanese film director, Akira Kurosawa, is suing the studio that backed some of his greatest masterpieces in a 65-million yen (\$284,000) dispute over royalties. He is accusing the Toho Company of breaking a contract by refusing to pay royalties for broadcasts of 21 of his films on satellite television.

Tatar independence vote sharpens fears of Russian break-up



Zorkin: vote threatens integrity of Russia

THE Russian parliament yesterday turned its attention from the receding threat of a hardline Communist backlash to tomorrow's independence referendum in Tatarstan, seen by many Russians as a threat to the integrity of the Russian Federation.

President Yeltsin yesterday appealed to the parliament of Tatarstan to cancel the referendum, warning that nationalist forces could use the result to kindle ethnic hostilities. "I believe it is not too late yet for the parliament of Tatarstan to return to the issue and adopt a decision which would correspond to the resolution of the Constitutional Court of Russia," Mr Yeltsin said. The court announced late last Friday that the referendum was unconstitutional.

Leaders in Moscow have been gripped by a sense of desperation over Tatarstan, fearing the growth of separatism and ethnic hostilities, Mary Dejevsky writes

Tatarstan and Chechnya-Ingusheta are the only two autonomous regions not to have initialled the new federation treaty. A senior parliamentary official announced that Russia was ready to negotiate the independence of the self-styled Chechen republic in the northern Caucasus and talks would begin next month. Last year Russia declared the republic illegal and sent in troops in an abortive attempt to enforce a state of emergency. But Tatarstan is different.

Valeri Zorkin, the chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court, gave an impassioned address to the Russian parliament about the need to overcome separatism. "We are not only on the brink of a crisis, but on the edge of an abyss," he said. "This is where we must stop." His address was broadcast in full on both main television channels and on radio.

Mr Zorkin said that, if there was no common recognition of the law and the constitution, "then the next

stage is rule by bands of robbers". He said: "This position threatens not only the integrity of Russia, but a resulting wave of bloodshed could engulf Tatarstan."

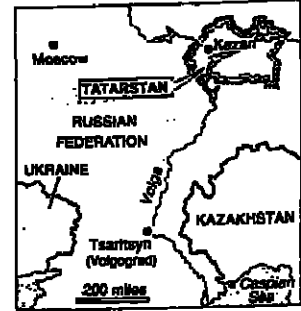
After the constitutional court's verdict, the Tatarstan parliament held an emergency session but decided to proceed with the referendum. The question reads: "Do you agree that the republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, which bases its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics on just treaties?" The court ruled that, though "independence" and "secession" were not mentioned, they were implicit in the reference to international law.

Earlier this week Ramazan

Abdulatipov, the chairman of the Chamber of Nationalities, visited Tatarstan and reportedly returned with an understanding from the region's leaders that they had no intention of seceding. Mr Zorkin, however, feared that future leaders could interpret a "yes" vote as giving a legal basis for secession. What the constitutional court required, he said, was a clause stipulating that Tatarstan remained "in the framework of the Russian Federation". This was a concession Tatarstan's leaders would not make.

In recent days the Russian and Tatar populations have been bombarded with contributions to the referendum debate. Aleksandr Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president, issued a public appeal for the

integrity of Russia to be maintained. Sergei Shakhrai, Mr Yeltsin's adviser and legal specialist, spoke of a "dire threat" to Russia's statehood.



and said that self-determination could never be regarded as a sacred principle. Russian Khasbulatov, the chairman of the Russian parliament, said that Tatarstan

ought to be trusted to fulfil its commitment to remain in the Russian Federation.

There is no talk of using force, either to halt the referendum or to impose Russian rule after a likely "yes" vote. However, political and economic measures are being broached. But Tatarstan's potential wealth from oil revenue is one reason why the region desires to be independent.

Mr Zorkin yesterday sent formal appeals to the Russian parliament and Mr Yeltsin to take "immediate, constructive measures" to uphold the constitution. He said if Russian leaders failed to do so they could be held accountable. Not only the Tatarstan leaders would be liable for impeachment, he said.

Kiev summit will tackle problem of arms control

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

THE 11 leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States meet in Kiev today for a summit that some predict will be its last. Despite protestations from President Yeltsin of Russia, that the commonwealth must be preserved at all costs, from President Kravchuk of Ukraine, that his republic has no intention of withdrawing, and from central Asian leaders, that their future lies only with the commonwealth, the will of the 11 states to make common cause looks ever weaker.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are virtually at war, and no internal commonwealth initiative has been able even to effect a ceasefire. Moldova is divided violently from within and is increasingly at odds with Russia and Ukraine. The republics of central Asia are directing their interest more and more towards their southern borders.

To existing disputes between Russia and Ukraine has been added the safety or otherwise of tactical nuclear missiles transferred to Russia. "Quiet diplomacy" may have taken the Black Sea Fleet and jurisdiction over the Crimean peninsula off the public agenda, but a wariness between the two persists.

Today's agenda will be dominated by military questions, which illustrates how far disintegration has gone. Economic ties, co-ordination of tax laws, mining arrangements, currency and other matters of joint interest, must be subordinated to the priority of containing a splintering army and keeping the peace — as far as possible.

Out of 38 documents submitted after the draft programme 20 are expected to be presented for signing and agreement and at least a dozen are expected to cover the vast military inheritance of the former USSR. Ominously for the future of the commonwealth, several until now negotiation of questions that had seemed settled in the

original commonwealth documents, including the precise chain of command over nuclear weapons and the arrangements and timetable for the transfer of such weapons to Russia.

Dissatisfaction with the present arrangements, whereby the Russian president alone has his finger on the "nuclear button", but can use it only with the agreement of the three other nuclear republics, has been voiced by Kazakhstan. It may not be alone in its concern.

Both the creation of a Russian defence ministry and the dispute between Russia and Ukraine over the safety of tactical nuclear weapons transferred to Russian territory brought into the open a dispute that could prove fatal to the commonwealth. There are growing differences on military policy between the commonwealth high command and individual republics intent on building their own military capacity.

This has fostered uncertainty about who actually controls the high command. Is it, as the commonwealth documents say, the council of commonwealth heads of state, or is it the Russian leadership, or is the high command in practice a law unto itself. Senior military officials said this week that the question would be hammered out today.



Kravchuk: denies that Ukraine will withdraw



Animal frills: the message from designers now, showing their autumn ready-to-wear collections in Paris was "escape from reality and dress like a dream". For women who dream of a luscious Bavarian landscape, Junko Shimada offered, left, this dirndl-style dress in rich red velvet.

cinched at the waist the better to show off the lace petticoat underneath. For those who like to make a statement, Jean Charles de Castelbajac provided a Cubist-like animal-print hooded coat in fuchsia, green and yellow. In other shows Chantal Thomass went for the good, showing



clothes with a carnival air, gorgeous enough to lure any Casanova, while Junko Koshino went for the bad and ugly. His models frowned their way through his show, their hair glued into long spikes, wearing dramatic figure-hugging tunics in black, grey and purple. (AFT)

Iran wins Karabakh ceasefire

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN NICE

Yerevan: A one-week ceasefire between Armenian and Azerbaijani fighters is set to take effect in Nagorno-Karabakh today, Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's deputy foreign minister, announced here. The Iranian mediator said he had won agreement from both sides to the seven-day truce to give him time to try to get the warring parties to the negotiating table.

Domestic and international efforts to halt the bloodshed have failed so far and several ceasefires have passed without effect, including one agreed last Thursday which collapsed within hours.

He said Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders had approved the accord in face-to-face talks. (Reuters)

Jets wanted

Berlin: The upper house of the Swiss parliament has voted for a controversial deal to buy 34 US-built jet fighters. Even if the bill passes the lower house, there could be a national referendum on the issue. (Reuters)

Shield lifted

Bonn: Hans Modrow, the last communist prime minister of East Germany, was stripped of his parliamentary immunity so that prosecutors could pursue allegations that he helped to rig a local election in 1989. (Reuters)

Ukraine denial

Kiev: President Kravchuk's press officer denied that Ukraine had reconsidered a decision to stop the transfer of nuclear weapons to Russia. He said a phone call between him and President Yeltsin had not occurred. (AP)

Hunt launched

Munich: Swiss police have launched a nationwide hunt for Vito Compierchio, an Italian aged 26, who is suspected of shooting dead three members of an Italian family and seriously wounding a fourth. (AP)

Socialist barrage misses Le Pen target

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN NICE

LOCAL politics in Nice have been decidedly raw and run-bustling for many a year, but the collision between Bernard Tapie and Jean-Marie Le Pen in the campaign for the regional elections on Sunday has set new standards of unremitting ferocity.

Sharing an instinct to go for the throat at the slightest opening, ready to get down into the gutter when the moment seems right, they came into the contest for control of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur administration knowing that the confrontation

would catch the nation's eye. M. Tapie's combative qualities and high local profile made him the first choice of the Socialist government to take on M. Le Pen and the National Front where they enjoy their strongest support.

A self-made millionaire, M. Tapie is president of France's champion football team, Olympique Marseille, boss of the Adidas sportswear firm. He represents a Marseilles constituency in the National Assembly, nominally as an independent, but still close enough to the Elysée palace to be labelled as a devout Mitterrandist.

Socialist strategists be-

lieved M. Le Pen could be knocked out of his increasingly confident stride by an intensive campaign against him in person. Who better to provide the goading than M. Tapie, a robustly effective performer on the hustings? Nobody seemed to appreciate the risk that the Socialist offensive would backfire by establishing M. Le Pen as the central campaign issue and giving him the publicity that is his political lifeblood.

M. Tapie fell into the trap with his denunciation of M. Le Pen and anyone who backed him as a *salaud*, or bastard. The effect was disastrous, dealing M. Le Pen a

powerful trump card which he played to the Socialists' grave disadvantage. He brought and won a court action against M. Tapie. The modest fine imposed on his opponent in no way matched the political damage M. Tapie inflicted on his own campaign. Sunk in gloom, he admitted as much, observing that his gaffe may well have lost the election for him.

Few were inclined to argue with the conclusion of M. Le Pen's deputy, Bruno Megret, that the Socialists had turned the election into "a referendum on the National Front".

Leading article, page 17

Albania's poor peasants fall prey to the anxiety-makers

FROM ANNE MCILVOY IN KRUTJE, LUSHNJE REGION, ALBANIA

Li stands in the door of her shack, knitting listlessly in the sun, her six children at her feet and an irritable husband padding purposefully around their tiny garden.

Some of the children have no shoes and sores on their feet from walking the gravel tracks which pass for roads. They are buttoned up against the spring chill in an unlikely assortment of ragged hand-me-downs. Their eyes are vacant and complexions ashen.

When we offered biscuits they looked uncomprehending at the unfamiliar treat. "They don't know what they are," said their mother. "they are only used to bread, leeks and onions. There is not even sugar or milk to give them now."

The villagers of Lushnje, southeast of Tirana are some of the poorest in a country racked by poverty. Since the collective farming system collapsed last year nobody has work and many are destitute.

The fields lie untilled. The farming equipment of the collectives was sold off to local entrepreneurs to

hire out to the peasants. But the prices are too high for them. Li's family has no income at all. They are still living on the 12,000 Leks (€345) they got from selling the cow apportioned to them when the collective was broken up — a measure



Alia: emphasises the need for co-operation which has given the Socialist party a bedrock of rural support.

"When the money is gone, we will have nothing at all, not even a hen. I am very scared that we will starve," she said. In their despair the peasants are easy targets for political manipula-

tion. Areas like this are considered ripe elements in Sunday's election. The Socialists, unpopular in the towns, are attempting to build on the so-called "cow vote" by feeding fears that the Democratic party will restore land to the families who owned it under King Zog who ruled before the second world war.

Gjovani Daka, the village school teacher, has been campaigning for the Democratic party but admitted that many peasants are still confused about the elections. "They do not know what the word democracy means," he said, "when we try to inform them of our programme they say, 'Give us a tractor and we will vote for you'. They are swayed by the slightest promise or threat."

Electors warned: President Alia yesterday warned his people that the euphoria surrounding the elections could turn to disillusion and chaos unless the main parties could agree to co-operate after the vote in rebuilding the country.

Catalonia car bombs kill two

FROM FRANK SMITH IN MADRID

TWO people were killed yesterday in the space of eight hours, in separate car bomb explosions near Barcelona, venue of the Olympic Games which start in July.

A member of the paramilitary civil guard was killed when a car bomb exploded, early in the morning, in the town of Llíria d'Amunt, about 20 miles north of the city. The civil guard had received a telephone call from a man, claiming to be from the Basque separatist group Eta, who said a car had been parked in the town with its owner locked in the boot. As bomb disposal experts approached, the vehicle exploded, killing the guard.

The second explosion, also caused by a car bomb, occurred on the outskirts of San Quirce del Vallès. A warning had also been given by a caller claiming to be from Eta, but police were unable to get to the scene before the bomb went off, killing a passer-by. These deaths bring the number of people killed in terrorist acts in Spain this year to 17.

Ashdown campaign, page 9



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Bush examines military options

Pentagon draws up plan to bomb Iraq

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon has presented President Bush with a list of military options, including bombing plans, to force Iraq to abide by United Nations resolutions requiring it to destroy all its remaining nuclear, chemical and ballistic missile facilities.

The options, which Mr Bush has not yet discussed with his senior military and foreign advisers, include a graduated bombing campaign, according to American officials. Several non-military options have been added by the State Department, which proposes seizing the \$1.5 billion (\$870 million) in Iraqi assets frozen by Washington on the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr Bush is said by administration officials to have made "a philosophical decision" to order military action if President Saddam Hussein refuses to comply with the UN resolutions. Mr Bush would seek UN approval before a bombing campaign. Officials say he already has the support of John Major.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has also signalled his support for military action, although other key Arab members of the allied coalition that forced Iraq out of Kuwait are opposed to a bombing strike. Late on Wednesday, President Mubarak of Egypt and President Assad of Syria said they would oppose the use of further force against Iraq.

Last week the UN Security Council warned Iraq to stop violating the Gulf war ceasefire agreement, and ordered Baghdad to come up with a plan by March 26 detailing how it would destroy its ballistic missiles and related research and production facilities. UN inspectors are due to leave Iraq on March 29.

The list of targets drawn up by the Pentagon parallels the list of sites that the UN insists must be destroyed. They include factories used to manufacture ballistic missiles and facilities for nuclear weapons research and production. The Pentagon bombing plan is believed to emphasise the use of air and sea cruise missiles and F117 Stealth bombers to limit the danger of American pilots being shot down by reconstructed Iraqi air defences.

There are several American warships in the region, including the Aegis-class cruiser Normandy, which entered the Gulf last week escorting the carrier America, which is capable of launching Tomahawk cruise missiles. About 15 F117 Stealth bombers are still based in Saudi Arabia. In all there are about 140 US air force warplanes in the kingdom. In recent weeks, Washington has increased flights of EC135 electronic spy planes along Iraq's borders to monitor Baghdad's air defence system.

Pentagon officials have been playing down the imminence of military action, aware that in the past they had made it appear that Washington was on the brink of moving against Baghdad and then nothing happened. "We have been careful this time not to rattle the sabre," one official said.

The State Department options, which could be used in conjunction with the Pentagon's plans, envisage seizing frozen Iraqi assets which would then be turned over to the UN to finance the inspection and destruction programme in Iraq, and expanding the area in northern Iraq which Iraqi helicopters are banned from flying over.

Some senior American officers yesterday were reported to be sceptical of the bombing plans, believing that Saddam would relish the opportunity of standing up to American military might again.

Major interview, page 16



Day of mourning: grieving relatives attempt to comfort each other during the funeral in Buenos Aires of a victim of the embassy bomb blast

Embassy blast toll rises to 20

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE death toll in Tuesday's bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires rose to 20 yesterday as rescue workers were forced repeatedly to interrupt the search for more bodies because of a rain storm.

Argentine immigration officials tightened security at border checkpoints in their attempt to capture those involved in the bombing, in which at least 240 others were injured, officials said.

One government official said he had counted 20 corpses in the blast, which destroyed the three-storey embassy in an elegant district of central Buenos Aires. Earlier, officials said ten people had died and 135 were injured.

José Luis Manzano, the interior minister, said a car bomb with about 220lb of explosives was used. The force of the blast left a crater almost five feet deep and nine feet wide. Hundreds of rescue workers, some using only their hands, searched for two Israeli embassy officials and up to eight others believed to be still buried under the rubble, digging through the night.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad had earlier claimed responsibility for the bombing, but an anonymous caller to a news agency, claiming to speak for the group, denied yesterday that it was involved. "The Jihad organisation denies responsibility for the attack committed in Argentina, although it totally supports any action against the Zionists anywhere in the world," the caller told Agence France-Press.

Argentine police claim that they have found part of a vehicle which had traces of explosive and said they could not discount the suicide bomber theory.

Local Jewish community leaders yesterday called for a march to be held in central Buenos Aires "in repudiation of the terrorist attack". Thousands of people from the large Jewish community in Argentina and supporters are expected to walk from the central obelisk, down the Avenue of Ninth July, to the grounds of the destroyed embassy. President Menem said that he would take part in the march "in solidarity with the Jewish community".

Killings spoil fun of traditional Purim

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

WHEN Israeli youths last night put on their costumes and make-up for the annual Jewish festival of Purim, those who ventured into the streets of Jerusalem wearing an Arab head-dress and painted moustache did so at their own risk.

The danger was not that they might incur the anger of a Palestinian, offended at being parodied, but rather that they might be mistaken by a fellow Israeli as a potential "Arab terrorist" and shot.

Purim, which marks the uncovering of a plot against Jews in Persia, is a usually harmless festival celebrated by youngsters much like Halloween in the West. However, religion and politics intruded on the fun this week.

Israel's Sephardi (Oriental) chief rabbi, Mordechai Elihu, intervened on Wednesday to prevent any further mishaps when he issued a religious ruling forbidding Jews to dress up as Arabs during Purim, arguing that in the present tense climate what began as a harmless

joke could cause panic. The move came after the attack on Tuesday in Haifa by a Palestinian from the Gaza Strip who was shot and killed after he stabbed two Israelis dead and left 19 others injured, some of whom ignored his sword, knife and masked face, assuming that they were part of his costume.

The heightened sensitivity was illustrated last night in the Israeli coastal town of Herzliya, where Avshalom Seri, aged 22, was shot and wounded while accompanying his teenage brother to a fancy dress party. Mr Seri made the mistake of donning traditional Arab dress thereby attracting the attention of an off-duty lieutenant in the army who drew his side-arm and ordered him to halt.

"We thought that the soldiers were in disguise too," his brother said. "When he shot in the air, we thought it was a Purim pop-gun, so we did not take him seriously." The soldier then fired at the "Arabs", injuring the older brother in the leg and neck.

Photographs save art of Luxor tomb

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

AFTER a gap of 45 years, small groups of privileged visitors will from next month be allowed again into the last resting place of one of the most enigmatic figures of ancient Egypt.

The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation yesterday announced the completion of the restoration of the tomb of Queen Nefertari, chief wife of Ramses II.

Dug deep in the limestone rock of the arid hills which overlook the Nile near Luxor, the tomb is renowned for containing Egypt's most outstanding art work. Its murals de-

wall paintings which were discovered when the tomb was first opened in 1904 by Ernesto Schiaparelli, the Italian Egyptologist.

Until a chance discovery at the Museo Egizio in Turin in March 1989, it was feared that only three of his photographs had survived. But 426 of the originals were found intact, yielding sharp prints of the murals as they had once looked. As a result, thousands of fragments lying in the tomb could be fitted back in place.

Ibrahim Bakr, chairman of the antiquities organisation, said: "Observing the highest scientific standards, the restoration experts have turned the tomb into a unique masterpiece that has no equal anywhere in the world."

Dr Bakr said after the re-opening on April 7 that only groups of archaeologists, scientists and experts would be able to visit in an effort to prevent further damage. Discussions are continuing about whether the public will be able to visit the tomb again. Scientists have found that six persons staying inside for an hour raise the humidity from 30 per cent to 35 per cent, while at 40 per cent bacteria develop. The antiquities organisation is considering a plan to allow visitors to view the tomb via closed circuit television cameras.



Nefertari: inspirer of mural masterpiece picturing the queen's itinerary in the other world have been reconstructed at a cost of \$2 million (£1.2 million) by the J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute. The restoration, which has taken six years, followed a series of botched attempts to preserve the

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A royal split that divided the nation

Ben Macintyre on the acrimonious divorce of Queen Caroline and George IV

The only thing that unites the nation almost as much as a royal marriage, is the end of one. With the announcement that the Duke and Duchess of York are to separate, the rancour of the election has been briefly obscured, and the tabloid newspapers are reveling in a split described as "sensational". It is nothing of the sort.

Royal marriages are more fragile, it seems, than most, but the Yorks' separation will no doubt end, if it does end, with the same grimly mundane decisions over financial settlement and child custody that characterise most modern divorces. It was not always so. Leaving aside the fact that our national religion is the product of a royal divorce, the last truly sensational royal break-up divided the nation to such a degree that the very institution of monarchy was imperilled.

When the Prince of Wales (later George IV) first met his cousin and fiancée, Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, on April 5, 1795 the signs were inauspicious. The prince was so appalled by the appearance of his bride-to-be that after kissing her, he immediately retired to drown his horror in brandy. George had already been secretly married, had been involved in a number of unseemly "connections" and was destined to indulge himself in many more. He had only agreed to marry Caroline in exchange for a large increase in his income, needed to pay off vast debts incurred by gambling and extravagance. During the ceremony, whether through design or inebriation, the prince forgot the words of the marriage service and had to be prompted by the king.

The couple disliked each other immediately, and their wedding night was a disaster. Caroline later claimed that her new husband had been hopelessly drunk throughout, and the birth of their only child, Princess Charlotte, was almost immediately followed by final separation. This vituperative marriage was not dissolved for a quarter of a century, during which their initial antipathy blossomed into scathing loathing. They deserved each other. While George was drunken, profligate, priapic and selfish, his wife was by turns flighty, dogmatic, and exceptionally vulgar.

When George finally succeeded to the throne after George III's death in January 1820, he made the removal of the reference to "our Most Gracious Queen" in the Book of Common Prayer one of his first priorities. Since 1818 he had been collecting evidence of adultery against his wife — regardless of the fact that he himself had at least 18 mistresses in the course of his life, as well as "very many other temporary intrigues" — in order to secure a divorce.

The Bill of Pains and Penalties — "to deprive her majesty... of the Title, Prerogatives, Rights, Privileges, and Exemptions of Queen Consort of the Realm, and to dissolve the marriage between his Majesty and the said Caroline" — which George forced ministers to undertake in 1820, erupted into one of the most scandalous and recriminatory issues in British history. It marked a cultural watershed, on the cusp between Regency excess and Victorian prudery, and divided the nation.

Support for the Princess of Wales had steadily grown in the preceding 24 years, and included both popular radicals and radical Whigs. Moreover the overtly misogynist tone of some of Caroline's critics brought forth the first stirrings of popular feminism, with thousands of

signatures collected in women's petitions. George's cruel determination to prevent contact between Princess Charlotte and her mother particularly outraged many women of the time. Simultaneously, the symbolic image of injured womanhood awoke romantic notions of chivalry in a variety of men, many of whom were already appalled by George's conduct.

Caroline's opponents propagated lurid allegations of her sexual misconduct (some of them almost certainly true), which were seized on by caricaturists and others to create a new style of scabrous journalism, the antecedents of modern tabloid salaciousness. "The whole of England went obscene," noted one observer. The more serious newspapers also joined in the fray, including *The Times*, which made no secret of its sympathy for Caroline or of its fear that the controversy over the bill could lead to bloodshed.

In August 1820 this paper noted: "We doubt whether the Trojan war itself, or any which preceded it, either brought together so many soldiers, or so great an accumulation of the means of destruction, as this civil process, if such it may be called, against one poor Lady." The bill was a source of deep embarrassment to Lord Liverpool's government, and ministers tried in vain to dissuade George from going through with it. "The cabinet," noted the politician and essayist John Croker, "offer all but divorce. The King will have divorce or nothing." The allegations went far deeper than just an unseemly row within the royal family. With the French Revolution still fresh in the memory, public washing of the royal dirty linen threatened to undermine the deferential foundations of kingship itself. If George IV was the man who put the *lèse majesté*, it was left to the Victorians to take it out again, and if the crown became a more responsible and austere institution after George IV, his messy divorce was partly responsible.

Although many finally saw in "our injured Queen" what they wanted to see, the outcry in her favour was enough to cause the bill to be dropped in the House of Lords, and she was finally bought off with a pension, although George refused to "assign any of the royal palaces for the queen's residence". When she travelled to St Paul's to give thanks for her acquittal, a large crowd accompanied her, but no soldiers. "The Queen's guards are the people," announced one banner.

The depth of George's animus was perhaps revealed most clearly when he was informed of the death of Napoleon. "Sir, your bitterest enemy is dead," he was told. "Is she, by God," was the reply. Caroline died soon after George's lavish coronation in 1821, from which she was banned. Characteristically, she turned up anyway with a retinue of supporters, and was denied admission at the door to Westminster Abbey. Had she attempted to force an entrance, a riot would certainly have ensued.

Less than a fortnight after that incident she was taken ill at Drury Lane Theatre and died a week later — the victim, said her supporters, of George's unremitting hostility. When the king heard the news, his behaviour was "gay" than might be proper to tell. By comparison, the minor drama generated by the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York reveals only the humdrum pain of failed marriages. It may irritate the nation, but will not shake it.



Caroline: vulgar, feisty and flighty

The prime minister calls Labour's tax plans "poison" for the middle class

Despite Labour's opinion poll lead, John Major is convinced that he chose the right time to go to the country, and that the Conservatives can win. His confidence is based on John Smith's tax plans which he argues, will assist Labour like a "draught of poison".

The shadow budget, says Mr Major, "seeks to lift the economy out of recession by imposing greater taxation. And it doesn't restrict that taxation to those whom Labour would call rich. The people who are principally hit are middle class, middle income earners, typically a senior school teacher in a comprehensive. A GP would pay an extra £1,500 in national insurance alone. These are not people who should have the disincentive of higher taxation."

Asked why the Tory manifesto is not more specifically designed to lift the country out of recession Mr Major replies that it is not necessary. The conditions for recovery are in place. Inflation and interest rates are down, individuals and companies have been repaying debts. America and others are out of recession. Only the "confidence factor" is preventing investment and that will undoubtedly be restored by the right election result.

Will there, as Labour claims, be more VAT increases under a new Tory government? Or might they extend the range of goods and services it covers? The prime minister rules both out. "We have no plans and no need to increase the impact of VAT. That covers both your points." The only caveat he enters is a change in law binding all European Community governments.

When challenged on the Tory manifesto — "we will maintain mortgage tax relief" — he chooses his words with care. Does that promise last for a parliament? Could it go up? "I don't think I can give an answer that covers a whole parliament. Whether the Chancellor would wish to increase it over a parliament is a matter that falls to be decided each year. We are committed to the principle of mortgage tax relief to give a good start and assistance to people in the housing market." But the words allow too far for a cut. Does he guarantee continuation of the tax concession at the present rate? "It would continue in some form. I cannot conceive it would be reduced."

Asked if his promise to put Britain at the heart of Europe will be realised more fully if he is re-elected, Mr Major lines up with his party's Euro-sceptics: "A good European is not the man who accepts everything suggested by the EC partners or by the Commission. A good European often says no, just as I said no at Maastricht to the Social Chapter. I am not an advocate of a United States of Europe. I am an advocate of a successful Europe of nation states."

He opposes the Social Chapter's principle of a minimum wage, which Labour would introduce, because of its impact on competitiveness. But if 10 of our EC partners can afford a national minimum wage why can't Britain? It is a matter, says Mr Major, of the large numbers in part-time work whom it would no longer be practicable to employ. Many continental politicians, he argues, regret

Why I know we will beat Labour

John Major tells Robin Oakley how he chose April 9



A relaxed Mr Major, confident that John Smith has blundered over his high tax budget

very much that their countries have national minimum wages. Looking remarkably relaxed and jovial despite a gruelling 18-hour a day campaigning, he reveals growing scepticism over the single European currency, saying that he is "very dubious" whether the circumstances will be right for its introduction within the decade. But should the European Community fail to wait for the right economic circumstances, he warns of collapsing asset values in the weaker countries and mass migration to the stronger states.

A "real attack" on the inner

city's problems is promised over a new five-year term, with urban regeneration schemes, the restoration of derelict land, an injection of capital and the boosting of home ownership. Local authorities, he says, raised rates on companies rather than individuals and forced them out of the inner cities, creating a cycle of deprivation. "No jobs, just unbalanced communities of people on very modest incomes and people on very wealthy incomes, with none of the adhesion of society."

If Mr Major's references to "society" are distinctly Thatcherite, confirming the

more interventionist tone of the latest Tory manifesto, he does defend her community charge. "The principle was right but the practice wasn't." Local authorities pushed up expenditure on the community charge and rendered the system unworkable. "The community charge was fair when it produced a taxation level that it was credible to expect people on modest incomes to bear, but it was not and it had to be changed."

Passion is not a word which often comes to mind with the amiable and relaxed Mr Major, who appears to be weathering the election storm with equa-

lity. But the bite came into his voice when I asked him if he had any regrets, as Mrs Thatcher obviously does, about the decision to take Britain into the exchange rate mechanism. None at all, he says.

Yes, interest rates would have been lower. But the exchange rate would have been lower too. "As a result we would have been feeding inflation back into the system. People have not taken on board how much I loathe inflation."

Citing Japan and Germany, he says that countries following hard currency plans have had lower inflation and stronger growth. That is what he wants for Britain. "We can't run away from problems for ever, letting sterling devalue progressively every time there is a blip in the trade cycle."

There is no policy for a hung parliament. He is adamant about resisting a Scottish parliament, saying that the constitutional problems raised by two classes of Scottish MP at Westminster would lead to calls for full separation.

And while he "understands the frustration" of the Liberal Democrats he scorns proportional representation because it would produce weak governments. With PR, he says, Britain would never have taken the right decisions about the economy in the early 1980s or the Falklands war. The countries which have it, regret it.

Sitting in his paper strewn office in Smith Square, I asked if he would contemplate authorising military action during the campaign either against Saddam Hussein or President Gaddafi of Libya. He would not hesitate to involve Britain in military action against Saddam Hussein during the course of the election campaign. "Yes, if I thought it the right thing to do. That should not be read as a commitment but if you wish to ask the question and if I thought it was the right thing to do, I would do it."

"Saddam Hussein still has the capacity to make nuclear weapons. He will have to surrender that capacity. The United Nations require it and we, the Americans and the French will make absolutely sure that he cannot proceed with that, whatever it takes. There should be no doubt about it."

Military action against Libya in support of UN resolutions demanding the handover for trial of suspects in the Lockerbie terrorist bombing is thought to be a less immediate prospect. A further UN resolution imposing sanctions is expected to precede any use of military force.

John Major said he had rejected calling the election after the Gulf war, when the Tories led in the polls, because it would have been "immoral and a cheat". He ignored November because he was determined to conduct the Maastricht negotiations and because he wanted the replacement for the poll tax on the statute book before facing the elections. At New Year he decided that it had to be April. Any later, he reckons, and a country driven near distraction by the penny election would have been up in arms.

Despite the fact that no government party has increased its poll standing during a general election campaign for 40 years he remains confident. All over the world, even in India, he says, people are reducing high taxation. "Only the British socialist party wants to put taxation up."



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I have been thinking about income tax. Moreover, I have come to a conclusion: but before you run to the hall to tap your swingeometer, let me quickly say that my conclusion will have no bearing whatever upon the ephemera of April 9. Politicians may offer you a penny for your votes, but I am concerned with greater truths. My conclusion is that if it hadn't been for income tax, a zeppelin would have got Caruso.

Now, I have never been a fan of linear history. I find the sequential ordering of the past to be a lifeless business. This happened, then that, and after that. This. Discuss. It cannot hold a candle (which is, after all, history's brief) to the collateral approach. Tell me that even as George Washington was being inaugurated, William Blake was galloping down to the printers with *Songs of Innocence*, only to be stopped at Ludgate Hill by a man enquiring whether he had heard what was going on outside the Bastille, and 1789 begins to breathe for me.

And so to Cricklewood, for a tale of two nannies.

A few days ago, a reader sent me an obituary from *The Independent* which told the remarkable story of Nesta Cox, English nanny to a noble French family who, with her, worked for the Resistance. Her latter heroism, however, was not my correspondent's purpose. In writing the sentence underlined for my attention was: "After training, she started work at the age of 15 during the First World

War and was bombed from a zeppelin, to no effect, while looking after children in Cricklewood."

I do not need to be told such things twice: we in the brick business know straw when we see it. Hitherto unaware that the Kaiser had earmarked Cricklewood as the fulcrum of his ambition, I was off to the archives in a trice; and by yesterday, I found myself in possession of a jigsaw so much more complete than the picture on the original box that the gooseflesh sprang. Allow me to confute my cuttings.

It is a moonlit February night in 1915, and to the north of Dortmund, Zeppelin LR17 rises slowly to 12,000 feet, and turns on an eastward heading. Though the RAF Museum records are sadly not as explicit on this point as on others, nothing will shake my belief that it is a member of the famed Krickelwald Escadrille, hand-picked by Wilhelm II to strike at the heart of Allied morale by taking out England's loveliest village. To this end, LR17 releases, a little after 10pm, a stick of 50kg bombs over Shoot-Up Hill, demolishing two Edwardian villas and damaging five more, including the one in which Nanny Cox is reading her little charges to sleep.

Glancing up from *Peter Pan* with no more than the reproving tut her legendary fortitude allows — I admit to a little glossing here, the contemporary *Kilburn Times* having been subject to War Office censorship —

Nanny Cox neither knows nor cares that the empty house two doors away has been flattened. I know, though. I also know who wasn't in it.

On April 25, 1914 Enrico Caruso arrived from New York and went to Clarendon Court, Maida Vale, where he owned a flat containing his son and Nanny Sacer. History does not record what Nanny Sacer was reading aloud from, either, but you can be sure she stopped when her boss burst in, because Enrico was in a rage, and when Enrico shouted, windows shattered. What had upset him was that the Inland Revenue had judged that his flat made him an English resident, and subject to income tax. So he sold the flat, and moved a mile up the Edgware Road to a house in Shoot-Up Hill owned by Nanny Sacer's parents where the Caruso family could stay without giving Herbert Asquith sixpence in the pound.

But the Inland Revenue were not so easily cheated. They continued to hound Enrico until, in September 1914, the family moved out for good. Now, can you guess where that house was two doors away from? I cannot, of course, say with absolute certainty that five months later, Caruso would have been gargling his tubes when LR17 hove to overhead, but does even an outside chance not make the neck-hairs bristle? Do you know Sympson? She is the tenor Muse, and her portfolio is coincident. She can be a remarkable help to hacks.

Sleep, little babies

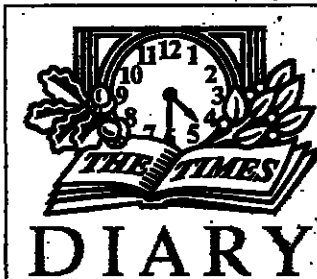
IF CHRIS PATTEN, the Tory party chairman, is looking increasingly tired only one week into the election, it is hardly surprising. The need for him to commute daily between Central Office and his marginal constituency in Bath is resulting in an average 18 hour working day. For his young advisers, the "brat pack" as their older Central Office colleagues have dubbed them, the day is even longer.

To cope, Central Office has been forced to rent the house in Gayfere Street owned by Tory candidate Alan Duncan which became famous as the headquarters of John Major's leadership campaign team. A stone's throw from Central Office, it has become home for Patten's team who must brief him when he returns from Bath — often after midnight — and then again before six the next morning.

Sleeping — albeit briefly — in the "bunker", the room from which Major's team worked, are David Cameron, aged 25, head of Central Office's political section, and Steve Hilton, aged 22, who is the link man with Saatchi & Saatchi. They are up and about before 4.45am and Cameron then gives Patten a complete run-down on what has appeared in the press.

They brief John Major at Central Office at 7.30am where they are joined by Tim Collins, aged 27, the party's press secretary, and Shaun Woodward, aged 33, the director of communications. Most of the team have never worked on an election campaign before and Hilton was not even old enough to vote at the last one.

After the morning press conference Patten, armed with a portable fax, mobile telephone and portable television, leaves for Bath.



He spends at least three hours a day commuting by helicopter and train. Throughout the evening the young Turks monitor television and radio coverage at Central Office until the chairman returns.

A Central Office spokeswoman says: "We are expected to work anything from a 12 to a 20 hour day. As the campaign progresses it will probably get worse." Small wonder that the "brats" have been spotted taking mid-afternoon naps at their desks.

Southforked?

IF THE Duke and Duchess of York's £5 million home, Sunninghill Park on the edge of Windsor Great Park, is to go on the market, it could become one of the great white elephants of recent times, say local estate agents. Antony Wardell, from Knight Frank & Rutley's Ascot office, says: "I can think of no house sold in the South-east of England at that sort of level for 18 months."

Indeed the house is not to all tastes. It has a high yellow-brick wall and mock-Tudor columns. Inside, the 12 bedrooms, a cinema and swimming pool are more marketable. The Duchess of York's bathroom is said to be decorated in a nautical theme. The house, variously described as "Southfork" or the royal pizza

hut, took four years to build, and was a gift from the Queen. The Duchess of York once denied having much to do with the design, blaming the result on her husband. "It's mostly his hard work."

Local agents believe the only real chance of a buyer is an Arab attracted by the house's royal associations. Other suggestions include an out-of-town DIY superstore.

Benetton's loss is Labour's gain. The party has snapped up almost 2,000 sites left vacant around the country after the high street fashion chain cancelled its controversial advertising campaign. But bickering has struck the election poster war. Labour is crying foul over the fact that Saatchi booked 2,000 sites for the election campaign weeks ago — under the guise of bookings in the name of LA Gear and Gillette. Neither client knew they were being used in this way and a spokesman for LA Gear confessed to being "surprised".

Handel's chair music

SIR NEVILLE MARRINER is planning the performance of his life at next month's 250th anniversary concert of Handel's *Messiah*. Before he conducts the anniversary concert in Dublin, where Handel conducted the first performance in 1742, Marriner will compose his thoughts sitting in the very chair from which Handel conducted the world's most famous choral work for the first time.

The chair normally sits in Dublin's Writers' Museum but will be removed for one night only to Marriner's dressing-room. "We hope it will give him a feel for the work," says a spokesman for the organisers. "It took Handel three and a half weeks to compose the *Messiah*. It took us five years to organise this concert."

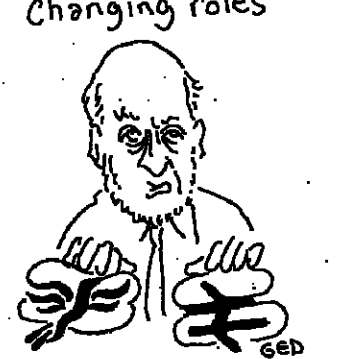
Hot gossip

KITTY KELLEY is to address the Oxford Union this autumn. The woman who braved the wrath of the Reagans over her unauthorized biography of Nancy is to take part in a debate on — what else? — the private lives of public figures. "Yes I will be referring to Nancy," says Kelley, known in the United States as the "queen of sleaze".

The union is delighted after its annoyance last year when Ronald Reagan allegedly turned down an invitation because he heard of the invitation to Kelley. "I was perturbed when I heard that President Reagan had cancelled his trip to the union," Kelley says. "It was small-minded of him. But I love Oxford, the intellectual culture of the world, with its hip students."

No longer on the hustings, the former Liberal Democrat MP Sir Clement Freud, now devising sandwiches for British Rail, is still touched with election fever. He

Changing roles



has created an "electoral roll" available on InterCity buffers for the next three weeks with a filling of red frankfurters on the left, blue cheese dressing on the right and green lettuce with yellow mustard butter in the middle.



VIVE LA DIFFERENCE

Why is nationalism relevant in Anglo-Scottish relations but not in Anglo-Scottish or Anglo-Welsh ones? Why are further steps to European political union anathema while resistance to any devolution within the United Kingdom is a "vital national interest"? Yesterday saw the publication of separatist manifestos from the Scottish and Welsh nationalist parties. The questions they raise will not vanish from the British political agenda, for they are speaking to a reasonable desire on the part of sub-national groups within Britain for greater respect.

The Conservatives are Unionists; the term even forms part of their official title. But there is no reason why a Conservative party should not support devolution or localism. Christian Democrats in other countries have no problem with the concept of subsidiarity. The British government supported "national" self-determination for Croatia and Slovenia, for the Baltic states and for other members of the former Soviet Union. It is easy to deride the Scots and Welsh as "not proper countries", but thus did the Yugoslavs and the apparition of Moscow deride their subordinate peoples. Scotland and Wales have distinct cultural identities, rooted in language, history and geography. Speeches by London politicians implying otherwise merely reinforce the distinction.

Yesterday the Tories published manifestos for Scotland and Wales to counter not just those of the two separatist movements, the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru, but also competition from Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The separatists want independence, and the basis on which they want it holds little appeal for the peoples of their countries, though subsidiarity to Brussels and pleas for parallelism with Luxembourg and Belgium are increasingly plausible. Labour and the Lib Dems are offering degrees of partial devolution, including the restoration of the local freedom to raise taxes which was ended by rate-capping.

The Tories' response includes a new quango called the Welsh Economic Council, a forum for employers, unions and local councils to co-ordinate investment and training. The Welsh are unlikely to be grateful on April 9. Scotland is treated as curiously. Its inhabitants, still smarting from being used as a poll tax "experiment", are offered little more than an upgrading of

Hampden Park, their national football stadium. Devolution is on offer to neither, according to John Major yesterday, because it will lead inevitably to independence and a break-up of the Union.

One look at the nationalism reasserting itself over most of the rest of Europe would show him that the opposite is true. Attempts to suppress national identity only lead to stronger, often violent, eruptions of self-determination. Mr Major's refusal to countenance devolution is more likely to precipitate a break-up of the Union than fulfilment of the demands of the Welsh and the Scots to have more say in their own affairs. Finding ways to integrate national groups into federal and confederal constitutions is absorbing countries as diverse as Russia, Spain, South Africa and the United States. There is no impossibility about this, no mystery.

Those eager to play up the difficulty of devolution pose the "West Lothian question", first put by a Labour MP, Tam Dalyell. Why should the member representing West Lothian have a say in English legislation if English MPs cannot vote on Scottish matters? A simple answer is that subsidiarity should apply equally to the whole of the United Kingdom. Regional assemblies in England as well as in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should legislate for all local affairs, as they do in Germany. Only Union affairs would be decided at Westminster.

But few regions of England feel as alienated from Westminster as do Scotland and Wales. The answer to the West Lothian question is a pragmatic one. The Scots have had to put up with "unrepresentative" government from afar since 1707. If Scotland and Wales wish for greater self-government, they must accept a reduced presence at Westminster. But once there, Scots and Welsh MPs will rule England. If the result is a Labour Parliament ruling a predominantly Tory England, so be it. A predominantly Tory Parliament has long ruled a Labour Scotland and Wales. If the Tories want to mitigate the impact of such unfairness by increasing devolution to English counties, there is no bar to them proposing that. Yet they have been legislating greater centralism instead. No delegation downwards is too much delegation in a democracy. Was that not the message brought back from Maastricht?

FRENCH BAD ODOURS

At first glance, the regional elections in France this Sunday are the usual mixture of confusing electoral lists, more than 10,000 candidates, and local grouches. Were they only concerned with the normal, humdrum business of local government, the results would be a footnote in the history of the Fifth Republic. By deliberately turning them into a national referendum on the Front National of Jean-Marie Le Pen, President Mitterrand has ensured that the results matter beyond the borders of France. They could mark the beginning of the end of the Gaullist system and the start of something much worse.

Mitterrand, seasoned master that he is of pre-Gaullist revolving-door coalitions, faces the certainty of crushing defeat for his Socialist party, whose share of the vote could fall to around 20 per cent. His priority has been to split and weaken the two main parties of the traditional right, even at the cost of increasing the Front's share of the vote. His sights are set beyond this Sunday, to next year's parliamentary elections and the presidential campaign in 1995. And he has seen that his best chance of securing a victory for his chosen socialist successor is to coax the centre into coalition with the left.

For this to work, M Le Pen has to be seen as a genuine danger to democracy rather than a demagogue on the political fringe. These elections are likely to give his party 12-15 per cent of the vote — enough to establish him as a power-broker in more than half France's regional governments, now mostly firmly in the hands of the traditional right. More important, he will have proved his ability to attract votes across the political spectrum, becoming the most prominent leader of the extreme right in Europe.

M Le Pen will owe this breakthrough in part to French disaffection with the whole business of politics. Scandals over illegal political contributions have plagued all the main parties. Voter cynicism will show itself in two ways on Sunday. Nearly half the electorate is expected to abstain. And of those who do vote, about a third are expected to boycott the established parties of both left and right, in favour of the two fast-growing Green parties and the Front National.

Even more important to M Le Pen,

however, has been President Mitterrand's tactic of ignoring the centre-right in favour of an all-out attack on the Front. The free publicity provided by the chaotic and often violent left-wing demonstrations against M Le Pen has concentrated national attention on all those issues — immigration, street crime, unemployment, worries about France's ability to compete in a frontier-free Europe after 1992, and even political corruption — where M Le Pen most successfully exposes the voters' raw nerves. Public efforts by municipal authorities to ban Front rallies and bar it from public buildings have enabled M Le Pen to parade as the defender of freedom of speech.

The Front's share of the vote translates into electoral potency, however, only because of the proportional voting system for regional elections. Those to the national parliament are currently on a two-tier vote, first-past-the-post in the second round. Based on current voting intentions that would shrink the Front to a mere couple of parliamentary seats next year — and give the conventional right a huge majority of 76 per cent of the seats. Any doubts about the Machievellian character of Mitterrand's ultimate game plan are therefore resolved by his declared intention to introduce proportional representation at the national level before next year's elections.

That would deprive the conservatives of an absolute majority, increasing the communist and green votes and giving the Front around 90 seats. France would then be faced with three choices: a conservative government reliant on Front support; ineffectual minority governments dependent on shifting, issue-based votes; or a left-centre alliance. In such a swamp, Mitterrand could keep his head as the only source of clarity and authority, building support for his chosen heir in 1995.

The French have good reason to be disgusted with their politicians this week, and better reason to turn out to vote on Sunday than they seem to recognise. These elections mark a stage in a sharp deterioration of French political life, which will complicate and hamper the building of a new Europe. And this is a product of the very cynicism Mitterrand has displayed in fending off his disaffected electorate.

NOT MADE IN HEAVEN

The legal separation of the Duke and Duchess of York is a private tragedy of no great public consequence. The leeches of publicity may suck a hundred plaudits from the wound. The fairy tale perfection of a royal wedding makes its collapse the more sensational. Its details are the more fascinating to those sated on royal romance.

When its affairs go awry, the Queen's family is vulnerable to a truly global Schadenfreude. But the pain of a royal family breakdown is no different from that felt by thousands of young people, many of them goaded by their elders and contemporaries into marriage too early, then finding they have made a terrible mistake. All that distinguishes this pair is the visibility of their plight.

Whether monarchy is damaged by its practitioners proving themselves only human is subject for rich debate. There is no point in this debate. At the best of times, the entrails of monarchy cannot stand too much examination. Its ancient structures of religiosity, heredity and primogeniture are

not susceptible to reason. The institution is all of spittle. If it can survive its archaic practice of denying daughters equal rights of succession with their brothers, it can withstand another broken marriage. The high level of public support for the monarchy is not likely to be damaged by so personal an upset as this.

The British people have long sensed a security in having an extended family as its symbolic head of state rather than some passing and partisan president. But in this era of sound health, the Duke of York is not in close contention for the job of monarch. His matrimonial misfortune is therefore hardly a matter of state or a threat to the constitution.

The nation will offer the couple and their parents sympathy in their distress. But each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. That the royal couple's former happiness was so public in no way diminishes their right to be private now. Now that the ending of their relationship has been recorded, the privacy of their pain should be respected.

The business sector vote: Liberal Democrats weigh in

From Sir Peter Parker and others

Sir, Readers of *The Times* should know that there are many business managers who cannot give their support at this election to either the Tory or Labour parties and who by contrast support the positive approach to the economy which the Liberal Democrats have adopted.

After 40 years which have seen Britain's relative decline as a major industrial power continue under both Conservative and Labour governments, rational businessmen are bound to ask themselves whether there is not a better way forward. We believe that the commitment to a combination of public investment and private enterprise which characterises the Liberal Democrat approach is exactly what Britain needs.

Changing Britain for Good, the recently published Liberal Democrat manifesto, shows that the party is not only prepared to make the necessary investment now in public works to get a very sluggish economy moving again but that it is prepared to invest heavily in education and training, the necessary pre-condition of a high-skill, high-value-added economy, even at the cost of an extra 1p in income tax.

Yet at the same time the Liberal Democrats are determined to make the market work in favour of making the Bank of England independent of politicians; committed to competition, the break-up of monopolies and a new drive against restrictive practices; and willing to help companies through a difficult patch by a freeze on the uniform business rate.

Above all, Liberal Democrats aim to create consensus and stability in government. That means a commitment to electoral reform which has also been supported by many industrial leaders over the years including a resolution by the CBI conference shortly before this government came into office. Electoral and constitutional reform, combined with a real commitment to European economic and monetary union, will allow companies to plan ahead and invest with confidence.

We have no hesitation in commending the responsible and realistic Liberal Democrat programme to those, like ourselves, who are working in industry and commerce to

create the wealth the country needs. These are our personal views and not necessarily those of the companies with which we are associated.

Yours faithfully,
PETER PARKER,
PETER BOIZOT,
COBBOLD,
EZRA,

IAN S. HUTCHESON,
PETER JONES,
DAVID LAURIE,
TERRY MAHER,
IAN MORROW,
MALDWIN THOMAS,
DERMOT DE TRAFFORD,
IAN WRIGGLESWORTH,
5 Chandos Street, W1,
March 19.

From Lord Rippon of Hexham, QC

Sir, There is a great deal of discussion about Labour's first budget. What would really hurt would be the second and subsequent ones.

It is a typical socialist illusion that the more the better-off are taxed the greater the benefit to the poor. In fact, there is plenty of evidence that higher rates of tax yield less revenue. Thus the top 5 per cent of taxpayers are now estimated by the Treasury to account for 32 per cent of the total yield of income tax, compared with 24 per cent in 1978-9 when the top rate of income tax was 83 per cent (with an additional surcharge of 15 per cent on investment income).

If there should be a Labour government, top and middle management will certainly be poorer, but you can be sure nobody will end up richer. As inflation rises the value of the pound in the pocket would fall.

After three or four Labour budgets — perish the thought — the electorate would once again be on their knees, begging for an end to their misery.

Yours faithfully,

RIPPON OF HEXHAM,
4 Brems Buildings, EC4.

From Mr Tim Pendry

Sir, Not all the signatories of Lord Hollick's letter (March 18) were drawn from the Labour Finance and Industry Group (Diary, March 19). Around 30 per cent by my estimate are LFIF members, as I am: the rest came from a much wider circle of Labour sympathisers to which Lord Hollick is likely to have had some access.

World's poor 'off election agenda'

From the Director of the World Development Movement and others

Sir, There is every sign that the world's poor will be off the general election agenda. This is a glaring omission. Policies that promote economic, social and political development in the Third World are important above all because one billion people in the world have to live on less than £1 a day. But such policies are also important because they are in our own national self-interest.

Debt-induced import restrictions in many developing countries in the 1980s cost the EC over half a million jobs. Economic distress, persecution and war are turning millions of people into refugees. Poverty is one of the causes and consequences of environmental degradation and imperils new democracies in countries emerging from years of conflict and dictatorship.

We are therefore writing today to the leaders of the three main political parties asking them to tell voters what they intend to do for the world's poor. Will they, for example, dis-

mantle farm and industrial protectionism which costs the Third World around \$55 billion a year in lost earnings? How do they propose to significantly reduce Third World official and commercial debt, increase Britain's overseas aid budget as a percentage of the national wealth, and ensure that Britain stops funding environmentally insensitive development programmes?

We shall publicise their replies and ask our hundreds of thousands of supporters to raise these issues with their local candidates.

Yours faithfully,
MARIO ELENA HURTADO,
World Development Movement,
MICHAEL TAYLOR
(Christian Aid),
NICHOLAS HINTON
(Save the Children Fund),
DAVID JONES (Oxfam),
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI (Cafod),
MARTIN GRIFFITHS
(Action Aid),
25 Beehive Place, SW9,
March 19.

properly stored in crushed ice, will remain firm and enjoyable for a number of days, edible but dull for a few more. Whole or filleted fish, shrink-wrapped or vacuum-packed (with or without gas-flushing) is better protected and more hygienic to handle by non-specialist staff.

It can readily be displayed on chilled shelves at point of sale, and its appearance may be more attractive over a similar period. But such packaging of sea fish will be done ashore, maybe ten days after catching, when deterioration has already proceeded apace.

Fish is more vulnerable to poor handling than most foods: but prime fish in the hands of a good cook is amongst the most nourishing and delectable foods available to man.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RANKEN,
44 Castelnau Mansions,
Castelnau, Barnes, SW13,
March 11.

From Mr John Dodwell

Sir, May I propose a wider-ranging solution to the need to transfer water from the North-West to the South-East? The existing canal network in my view is too narrow to move sufficient water. It would have to travel at speeds likely to damage structures up to 200 years old, to say nothing of impeding navigation and angling.

New wider canals are needed. If they started from the Midlands, near the Trent and/or Severn, and connected with Tilbury and/or Ipswich, they would not only serve their water-transfer purpose but could also be used by large barges taking imports and exports off the overloaded roads.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DODWELL
(General Secretary, Inland Waterways Association, 1971-4),
6a Hagsdell Road, Hertford,
March 18.

Shelf-life of fish

From Mr M. B. F. Ranken

Sir, Thoby Young (letter, March 11) questions high-tech novelties to extend supermarket shelf-life of so-called "fresh" fish compared with "frozen"; unfortunately, both adjectives remain imprecise measures of edible quality at the point of retail sale.

Every preservation and distribution method seeks to extend prime as-caught quality and public acceptability as long as possible. Initial condition is crucial to the success of every method.

Frozen fish had a dreadful reputation until the industry accepted that freezing had to be within hours of catching; hermetically packed and stored at even low temperatures it will then retain its succulence for many months.

"Wet" fish of equal initial quality,

Business letters, page 25

Earhart riddle

From Mrs Mary S. Lovell

Sir, As Amelia Earhart's biographer I cannot allow your report ("Shoe unlocks Earhart riddle", March 16) that Fred Noonan was her "navigator and lover" pass without comment.

A reformed alcoholic, Noonan was newly married and hardly knew Amelia socially when they left the United States in her attempt to be the first woman to fly around the world. He was recruited by Amelia's husband, George Putnam, because, as a former navigator for Pan-Am in the Pacific, he had unique experience and was the best man available for what was recognised as the exceptionally difficult legs of the flight from New Guinea to Hawaii via Howland, a remote coral atoll.

There is a great deal of evidence that throughout the flight, and even on the evening before their disappearance, Amelia regarded and treated her navigator as a paid member of her staff and not as an equal — to Noonan's chagrin. Evidence also exists that Amelia was pregnant by George when she disappeared in 1937.

Yours faithfully,
MARY S. LOVELL,
Laura Cottage, 54 Romsey Road,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire.

Travelling incognito

From Mr A. M. Carter

Sir, Mr John Gorman (letter, March 14) asks why hoteliers and other authorities insist that we fill in occupational details on registration forms.

I still (just) have a passport with my occupation shown as an alchemist. It has been properly copied onto hotel forms abroad, but I most relish the immigration officer who once on my return to the UK said, with a twinkle in his eye: "I always wanted to know what one of you looked like. There can't be many left."

Yours faithfully,
A. M. CARTER,
270 High Street,
Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire,
March 17.

Water transfers

From Mr Antony J. Chery

Sir, Your report (March 12) on the National Rivers Authority's discussion paper mentions its proposal to transfer water from Wales to other areas via the Severn.

This is a move I hope we could all approve from an environmental point of view as the water discharged into the Severn would be similar to that which both that river and the Wye normally receive. This assumes that the NRA is referring to a revival of the expanded Craig Goch, Powys, reservoir scheme.

The reservoir as proposed would hold 238,000 megalitres, making it substantially larger than Kielder Water, Northumberland. That should be adequate to meet any foreseen shortfall in the West Midlands.

It would also provide significant

help for areas between the lower part of the Severn and the western edge of the Thames catchment area.

Craig Goch was much promoted in 1976 but shelved as soon as the drought ended in September that year. Even when the dam had been constructed it would take several years for the reservoir to fill. The estimated cost of this scheme in 1972 was £18 million; in 1990 it was £150 million. Can we afford to wait?

Yours faithfully,
A. J. CHERY
(Chairman,
Avon & Stour Fishery Association),
Overdale, Crow Hill,
Ringwood, Hampshire,
March 16.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Architects hit by huge job losses

From the President of the Association of Consultant Architects

Sir, Your leader of March 16 was very comprehensive on the enormous challenges facing the architectural profession. At such a time as this extensive resources are required to enable architects to invest in research, marketing and continuing professional development. In fact, we have a profession on its knees, fighting for survival.

The Association of Consultant Architects (ACA) has carried out a survey of its members, all of them practising in the private sector, in order to obtain firm statistics about the effect of the continuing disastrous recession on architectural practices. The response has been staggering.

Over 400 practices comprising 6,000 principals and staff provided statistics showing that, during the two years up to the end of 1991, 31.5 per cent of all architectural and technical staff were made redundant. The plight of the profession is serious and will have its impact on the construction industry as a whole some six to 12 months later.

Technicians fared worse than architects, with a rate of 46.7 per cent redundancy; that of architects was 23.5 per cent, and bigger practices of over 50 staff experienced the highest overall drop of 38.7 per cent. All evidence shows that the rate is still growing — a year ago it ran at 12.3 per cent per annum and has now reached a rate of 21.8 per cent per annum.

Many practitioners expect worse to come in the next six months, and are hanging on with staff under-employed or carrying out unprofitable activities. Others are putting a brave face on the future, but we conclude that the full devastation of architectural practice is even worse than the figures suggest.

At a conservative estimate, there were over 40,000 technical and architectural principals and staff working in private practice; at least 12,600 of these are now out of a job. This waste of highly-trained architectural skill is surely detrimental to the future of this country's environment and to the quality of its architecture. Will the next government address itself to leading the building industry out of this recession — a course which historically has been used to effect recovery of the economy as a whole?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID THURLOW, President,
Association of Consultant Architects,
Buchanans Wharf,
Redditch Backs, Bristol, Avon,
March 18.

Promising land

From Mr Burt Keimach

Sir, The people of Segovia ("Desert gains ground in rainless Spain", March 13) might wish to examine Israel's record in turning back the desert in a land with perhaps an even harsher climate than that of Spain.

For example, the nearly rainless southern Negev is gradually being greened. The Jewish National Fund in the last 90 years has planted 200 million trees all over the country and research has shown that this has even altered the mini-climate because rain-bearing clouds linger longer over forests, making cloud-seeding operations highly effective.

Israel has also restored over 200,000 acres of natural woodland that existed in biblical times. This has in turn allowed the reclamation of 250,000 acres for agriculture.

The water scarcity problems are far from solved, but these and scores of other methods are gradually beginning to work.

Yours faithfully,
BURT KEIMACH
(Executive Officer),
Jewish National Fund,
Harold Poster House,
Kingsbury Circle, NW9,
March 13.

French fervour

From Mr Sebastian Peake

Sir, I was exhilarated the other day to observe the progress being made just across the Channel on the TGV rail track. Men in clean blue de travail were putting the finishing touches to the Paris-Calais link the electric pylons gleamed, the conductors and cables were taut and new.

Even more impressive was the sense of pride, energy and achievement exuded by the engineers with whom I spoke. How different I felt on arriving back in Dover, where I believe that at some time in the future the British may contemplate a link covering one third the distance.

Yours sincerely,
SEBASTIAN PEAKE,
8 Queens Court, Grove Park,
Camberwell, SE5.

Power politics

From Mr R. M. Maxtone Graham

Sir, "Whammy" (letters, March 12 and 17) is a variant of an old Scottish word meaning a violent overturn: see "wham/wham/wham/wham/wham" in *Chamber's Scots Dialect Dictionary*, 1911, and *Rob Roy*, chapter 22: "It's an awfu' whumme — and for ane that held his head sea high."

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM,
6 Moat Sole, Sandwich, Kent,
March 19.

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER PETER KEMP

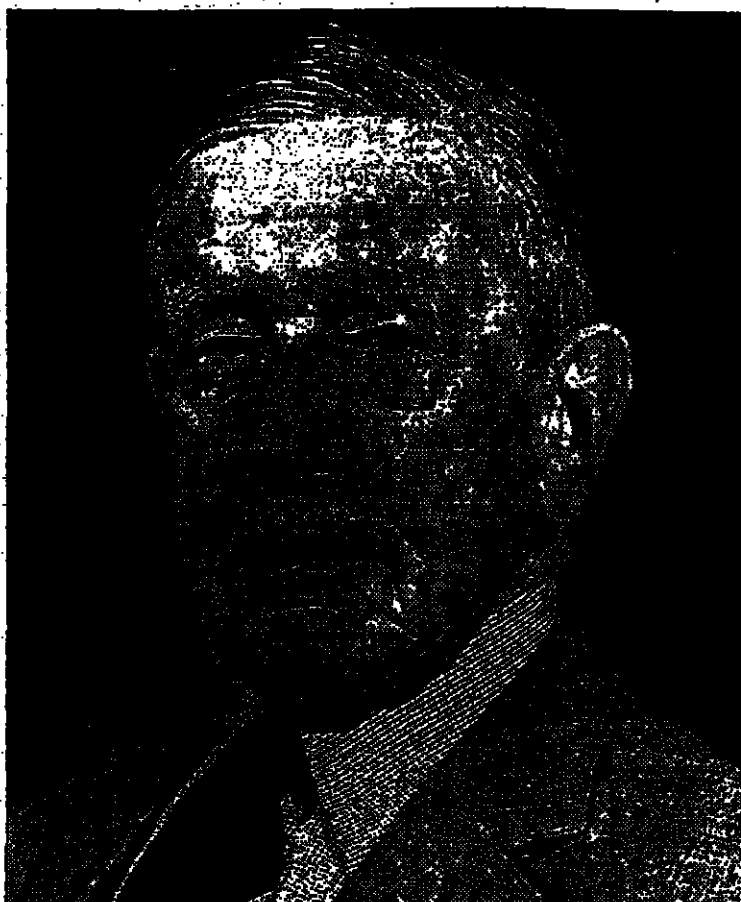
Peter Kemp, OBE, author and naval historian, died on March 15 aged 88. He was born on February 11, 1904.

PETER Kemp was one of the most notable figures in the postwar world of naval history. In 1950 he was appointed head of the Naval Historical Branch and Naval Librarian at the Ministry of Defence, where he stayed until 1968. But even before that Kemp was encouraging young scholars intent on a career in his own specialist subject.

When the Naval Library was in the old Admiralty building Peter Kemp was to be seen there in the 1950s, like some amiable don, answering the needs and questions of aspiring historians, guiding them to original as well as to printed books in the abundantly filled shelves. He would arrange introductions to appropriate retired officers and was also always ready to advise on manuscripts before their authors sent them off on the round of publishers. His knowledge and wisdom benefited numerous writers, several of whom have since become widely known in their own field.

Kemp's most notable protégé was Professor Arthur J. Marder. It was under Kemp's keen but kindly scrutiny that Marder edited the letters of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fisher. The quality of these three volumes was, with Kemp's help, enough to attract the official blessing of the Admiralty. Marder, in spite of his American nationality, was chosen as the official historian of the Royal Navy covering the period from the time of Fisher's appointment to First Sea Lord until the end of the first world war.

The correspondence between Kemp and Marder at his various universities from Hawaii to Santa Barbara while the five volumes of *From the Dreadnought to Scapa*



Flow were being researched and written, between 1960 and 1970, would have filled as many pages as the completed work itself. When Marder made one of his frequent visits to this country in search of papers and interviews, it was Kemp who opened every door and, together with Marder's superlative editor, Geoffrey Hunt, and his publisher at the Oxford University Press, Sir John Brown, ensured the definitive nature of the great project.

Kemp's sympathetic interest and helpful advice was given freely long after he retired from the Admiralty Library. Among other voluntary duties, he was on the council of the Navy Records Society, the Board of the Greenwich Naval Museum, and the American Advisory Board of Military Affairs.

Peter Kemp was educated at Osborne and Dartmouth naval colleges and later entered the submarine service. In the course of a

courageous and successful attempt to prevent a fatal accident occurring to the crew of a "jolly boat", he crushed and lost a leg. He was invalided out of the service he loved in 1928 with the rank of lieutenant-commander.

Peter Kemp then turned his hand to journalism. He was assistant editor on the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*. He worked on the editorial staff of *The Times* from 1937, mainly in the sports department, and went back to Printing House Square after the cessation of hostilities. The actual war was spent in the Royal Navy in the Intelligence Division, where he was privy to some of the innermost secrets of the naval war and was one of the few who knew of the remarkable work of the Bletchley team and their Enigma decoding machines.

Kemp's first history book, *Prize Money*, was published in 1946, but his steady production of specialist books and articles on naval historical matters really belonged to the period of his long and successful period at the Admiralty in the 1950s and 1960s. He was a prolific writer, whose range extended from adventure stories for children, through books on sailing, which remained an abiding passion and hobby, to popular historical surveys, a series of five regimental histories, campaign histories and serious historical studies.

He edited three volumes, of Boswell's letters and Fisher's papers, for the Navy Records Society, and wrote social histories of naval affairs: one, in collaboration with Professor Christopher Lloyd, *Brothers of the Coast* (1960), and the other *The British Sailor* (1970), a history of the lower deck.

He wrote clearly and simply and had a gift for choosing and arranging appropriate illustrations to his texts, where that was useful. His

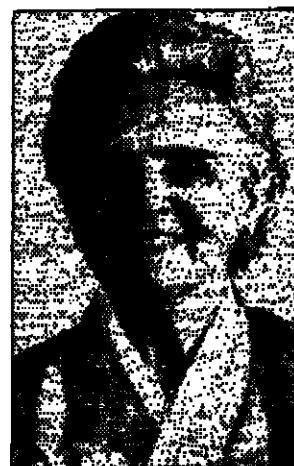
journalistic training gave him a feel for good layout as well as for clarity. He was perhaps at his best in broad descriptive writing rather than in the minutiae of editorial commentary, but his scholarship and his journalistic skills blended very happily. His popular books, like *The Boys' Book of the Navy* (1954) and *Famous Harbours of the World* (1958), were carefully produced. If they were popular, they were also accurate, setting a standard which not all compilers or authors of similar works have felt impelled to follow. His encyclopaedic knowledge and his love for everything connected with the sea informed all his naval work, and culminated, in 1976, in *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea*. For this he had a number of distinguished collaborators, but he did most of the writing and arranged all the material himself. The result was both pleasurable and distinguished.

Kemp was much loved in his native Maldon, and his kindness and enthusiasm attracted many friends and admirers to his cottage on the river where his cooking and wine cellar complemented his amiable hospitality. In his last years, after a belated reconciliation with his brother, Sir Michael Tippet, the two began work on a book about their childhood in Edwardian Suffolk. It is hoped that this will be completed by one of his grandchildren. He last met some of his friends and fellow naval historians at the annual Trafalgar Night dinner at the Garrick Club at which he acted as chairman. He made a memorable and characteristically modest and amusing speech.

Kemp was married twice, first in 1930 to Joyce Mary French and then in 1949 to Eleanor ("Peggy") Rothwell, who died in 1987. He is survived by two daughters. Kemp was appointed OBE in 1963.

FRANCESCA RHEE

Francesca Rhee, the Australian-born widow of Syngman Rhee, the first president of South Korea, died yesterday at her home in Seoul aged 92.



FRANCESCA Rhee, born Francesca Donner, met her husband, a leader in the struggle against the 1910 Japanese annexation of Korea, in Geneva in 1933 when Syngman Rhee was 57. They were married the following year. Korea was freed from Japanese rule in 1945 but split into two hostile Cold War states and Rhee became South Korea's first president in 1948.

Francesca Rhee faced difficulties in a parochial Korea where a Westerner was not welcomed as the first lady. But she assumed South Korean nationality and customarily wore the flowing traditional Korean hanbok and by the time she died she was revered. President Rhee's increasingly authoritarian government became unpopular, however, and mass demonstrations forced him from office in 1960. He left Seoul for exile in Hawaii and died in 1965. His widow returned to Seoul in 1970. The *Dong-A Ilbo* newspaper said that on her deathbed, Francesca Rhee asked that a Bible, a Korean flag and a copy of a work by her husband on the reunification of Korea be placed in her coffin.

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CHRISTOL HALKIAS

Christos Halkias, long-time mentor of British diplomacy in Greece, has died in Salonika aged 97. He was born in Asia Minor on June 28, 1892.

CHRISTOS Halkias served British interests in the Aegean region for over 50 years. His expert knowledge of the intricacies of Greek politics were of enormous value to successive British ambassadors in Athens. Born of Greek parents in Turkish Anatolia, he was court-martialled at the age of 20 for volunteering to serve in the Greek army in the war against Turkey, although, technically, he was an Ottoman subject.

His association with the British began in 1915 when he was taken on as a consular clerk on the Aegean islands of Chios and Lesbos, where he was involved in Compton Mackenzie's intelligence operations in the Aegean. In 1919, he was transferred to the British Consulate General in Smyrna where he witnessed the defeat of the Greek army and the subsequent flight of Greek refugees in 1922.

He himself became a refugee. He ended up in Malta, but the British Foreign Office caught up with him and posted him to Salonika, first as pro-consul, then as vice-consul once he acquired British nationality. In 1941 when the German army invaded Greece, he fled to Cairo and was assigned to Special Services in Alexandria.

Barely one month after the German withdrawal from Greece in 1944, he returned to Salonika to re-establish the British Consulate-General there, the oldest British Consulate in the world, having been founded in 1724. He did it with gusto by taking over the premises formerly occupied by the German Consulate-General.

He was the real interpreter — of mind as well as of language — between the British and the communist resistance groups in Salonika in the negotiations that eventually spared that city the ordeals wrought by the communist uprising in Athens in December, 1944.

Halkias was made an MBE for his services and was promptly seconded to the UK delegation with the United Nations Special Commission on the Balkans (UNSCOB), sent to investigate the active help being given to Greek insurgents during the civil war by the country's communist neighbours.

In December 1947 he was promoted to the rank of consul and was transferred to Athens as a second secretary at the British Embassy. With his intimate knowledge of the Greek political scene and, above all, the Greek mentality, he became the adviser of British ambassadors until his retirement from the Foreign Service at the age of 66.

Feeling still vigorous, he joined the British Council which benefited from his wisdom and talent for a further 11 years. He then returned to Salonika to enjoy retirement and his home was always open to old friends who had, over the years, become prominent in the foreign service, and whom he regaled over a frugal English meal with anecdotes gleaned from his long and eventful career.

PROFESSOR DEREK LOMAX

Professor Derek William Lomax, historian and Hispanist, died in Birmingham on March 12 aged 59. He was born in Bolton, Lancashire on March 4, 1933.

DEREK Lomax was one of the greatest medieval historians of his generation. It will always be a cause for celebration that for his field of postgraduate study, after taking a first in Modern History at Merton College Oxford, he chose Spain. In the early 1950s, many aspects of medieval Spanish history were imperfectly researched; not least the nature and role of the great military orders within the long reconquest of Spain from Islam. Lomax was to devote a life-time's research to these orders in particular and to the Spanish Church in the Middle Ages in general. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the history of the Order of *Santiago*. The subsequent book on the subject, *La orden de Santiago, 1170-1275*, was published in 1965 and remains the standard work in the field.

Lomax went on to publish over a hundred articles and papers on this and other aspects of the reconquest. A logical sequel, *The Reconquest of Spain*, duly appeared in 1975. First published in English, the ensuing Spanish translation made certain that it became the indispensable introduction to the subject for Spanish-speaking students, just as it already was for the English-speaking world.

Modest to a fault, Lomax never saw himself as a linguist. He delighted in recounting how, when his supervisor at Merton, Professor Roger Highfield, urged him to plunge into medieval Spain, he set out for the archives of that country armed with some Latin and French, but so little Spanish that "I



didn't even know the language had a subjunctive mood." In the event, he mastered it to the extent that in later years not only did he speak it as rapidly and idiomatically as any Englishman alive (albeit with a strong Lancashire accent) but was also able to write on Spanish history in Spanish with an astonishing accuracy, elegance and fluency. He was not one to rest on linguistic or historiographical laurels. In his last years as an academic Lomax embarked on a translation, with scholarly apparatus, of extracts of the fifteenth century Portuguese chronicle by Fernao Lopes, which recounts the campaigns of the English armies in Spain and Portugal during the Hundred Years War. *The English in Portugal* (1988), produced in partnership with a colleague at Birmingham, where he was professor of Spanish from 1972-90, was a mark of Lomax's versatility as scholar and linguist — and of his penetrating intellect.

Stories concerning that intellect are legion. He insisted on rigorous double-marking of all examination papers. A colleague speaks of one such session in which marks and assessments were compared and analysed as akin to being "intellectually beaten up."

After Oxford, "DWL" went

to the University of Liverpool as assistant lecturer in Spanish. He remained there for 13 happy years and in 1972 was appointed to the chair of Spanish at the University of Birmingham. In the following 17 years, as professor and head of department, he transformed Spanish studies at Birmingham. He brought a scholarly rigour hitherto lacking. By example and by encouraging his colleagues, he raised his department to its present position as one of the leading research centres in Hispanic studies in the country. Success was sown for him towards the end of the 1980s by the managerial ethos that enveloped the university world. "I still love my subject but have decided that I no longer enjoy my job," he told a colleague in the summer of 1989; and suddenly, shockingly, he retired.

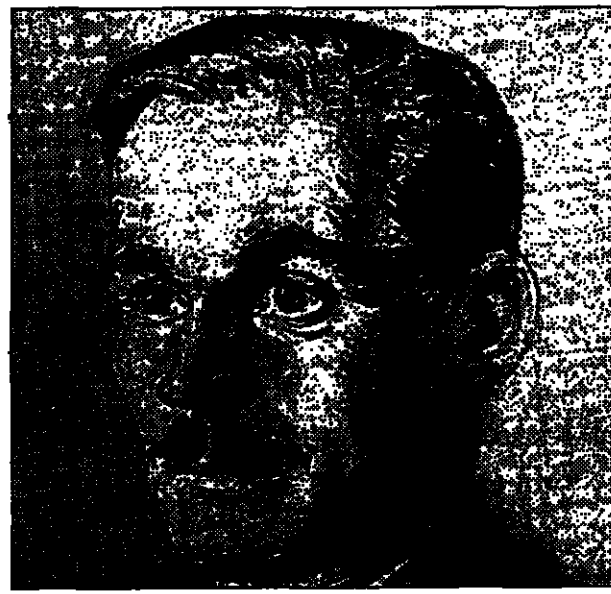
Clouded though these last years were, the research still flowed from him. *God and Man in Medieval Spain* (1989) which he co-edited, was a collection of essays presented to his teacher, Roger Highfield. In the three years before his death he embarked on several fresh projects, one of which was a history of the Spanish Church. That he achieved as much as he did in later years is all the more remarkable given that he also had to nurse his ailing parents in extreme old age. For some time he was able to visit Spain nor attend conferences on the country. His devout faith always sustained him in these difficult times, as did his keen sense of humour which could dissolve a fraught committee meeting into helpless laughter. While it is appropriate to celebrate the achievements of this singular historian, it is a cause for regret that such a brilliant scholar should be stopped while his writing and thinking on Iberian history were still in full spate.

David Walker, soldier and novelist, died in St Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, on March 5 aged 81. He was born in Scotland on February 9, 1911.

WHILE David Walker found relevance for his writings in all his experiences, he was most noticeably shaped by his Scottish upbringing and his years as a soldier. Nearly one third of the career he chose first, that of a Black Watch officer, was spent in, or escaping from, German prison camps following his capture near St Valery in 1940. His later reminiscences of the war were coloured by the natural frustration of not having been in action; his battles were those of wit with guards who were so clearly outclassed that Walker ultimately had to be moved to Colditz.

The years on either side of the war were physically more comfortable stints in high places serving great men, two of whom greatly influenced his later decision to become a writer. In 1938-39 he was ADC to the Governor General of Canada, John Buchan, later Lord Tweedsmuir, in which capacity he was a part of the escort of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their 1939 Canadian tour. Then in 1946 he was invited by Lord Wavell the Viceroy of India, for whom he had great admiration and affection, to serve as his controller. He continued in that post under Lord Mountbatten and his military career ended with India's independence.

To begin his new life as a writer Walker emigrated to Canada with his wife, Willa, a military success in her own right as wartime c-in-c of the Canadian WAFS, and two small sons. He also took with him his Scottish background, his army memoirs and the search for survival in his new life. But he drew extensively from his old life. The



India days prompted *Harry Black*, a story of hunting tigers that was eventually filmed as *Harry Black and The Tiger*; prison camp experiences sparked *The Pillar*; Scotland inspired the novel for which he is best known, *Geordie*, a tale of a lad who graduates from the Highland Games to the Olympics. The sentimental, good-natured story was filmed in 1955 by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat, with Bill Travers and Alastair Sim leading the cast, and still turns up on television.

Between novels Walker wrote several fine short stories. Indeed one wing of Strathcroy, his beloved house in which he died, was able to be commissioned when the postman delivered, at a critical moment, an acceptance notice from a national magazine for a major work.

Always on the move in search of new ideas and experiences Walker travelled variously by tramp steamer to Australia and by dog sled across the Arctic. The hard search for survival in the outback and the wasteland appealed to his respect for

accomplishments without trapping; he was quick to praise the unsung and scorn the flashy. He was impressed by and concerned for nature and its preservation; replacing a divot in his favourite sport of golf was conservation first and good manners second.

Altogether Walker wrote 20 novels, for which he was recognized twice with the Governor General's Award for Literature, a prize established by Lord Tweedsmuir, and an honorary doctorate from the University of New Brunswick. *Where The High Winds Blow* (1960) was a direct result of his Arctic experiences and thereafter his novels became more contemporary in setting and theme, perhaps most radically in the apocalyptic *The Lord's Pink Ocean*. But no matter how modern the adventures, Scotland, the outdoors and mainly values were the recurring themes of his work and his life, the diverse threads of which he pulled together in his last work, the autobiography *Lean, Wind, Lean*. David Walker is survived by his wife Willa and four of his five sons.

Church news

Birthdays today

Professor A.W. Ascher, dean, St George's Hospital Medical School, 61; the Very Rev William Budgeley, 78; Dr Wendy Baron, Controller, Government Art Collection, 55; Mr Christopher Benstead, racehorse trainer, 64; Mr Anthony Blund, publisher, 64; Mr T.G.M. Brooks, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 63; Sir Arnold Burgen, former master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 70; the Right Rev M.J. Conti, Bishop of Aberdeen, 58; Dame Vera Lynn, singer, 75; Mr A.M. Bow, former director-general, Unesco, 71; Sir David Montgomery, former chairman, Forestry Commission, 61; Mr Brian Mulroney, Canadian Prime Minister, 53; Dr John Rae, former head master of Westminster School, 61; Mr Sviatoslav Richter, pianist, 77; Mr Justice Saville, 56; the Earl of Seftield, 53; Mr Adrian Snow, former headmaster, The Oratory School, 53; Sir Harry Solomon, chairman, Hillsdown Holdings, 55.

Bridge bargain

A rare Victorian cast-iron footbridge which spans the Euston main line at Linslade, Bedfordshire, is being offered by British Rail to anyone who wants it.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Lord Braybrooke to be Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex, in succession to Admiral Sir Andrew Mackenzie Lewis, who will be retiring on August 1. Lord Mottistone to be Governor of the Isle of Wight, in succession to the late Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

Mrs Jane Benson and Mrs Winifred Tumbin to be trustees of the National Portrait Gallery.

Legal
District Judge Anthony Vincent Bradbury, Mr Anthony Norman Jackson Briggs and Mr John Fortnam Appleton to be circuit judges. District Judge Bradbury is assigned to the South Eastern Circuit. Mr Briggs to the North Eastern Circuit and Mr Appleton to the Northern Circuit.

The Bishop of London has appointed Miss S. M. C. Cameron, QC, as Chancellor of the diocese of London.

Clergy appointments
The Rev Clive Ashley, now Chaplain of Chichester Hospitals (Chichester).

The Rev Peter Ashton, Team Rector, Bletchley and Little Bushey, Team Ministry, and Rural Dean of Bedford, to be also a Canon of Chichester Cathedral (Chichester).

The Rev John Battman, Vicar, The Good Shepherd, Collier Row, Romford (Chelmsford); to be Vicar, St John the Baptist with Emmanuel, Werrington (Peterborough).

The Rev Elsie Bland, Dean, Central Bedford Team Ministry, to be also Chaplain (part-time), HM Prison, Shrewsbury (Lichfield).

The Rev Neil Brice, Assistant Curate, Fulbourn, Great and Little Wilbraham w. Six Mile Bottom; to be Rector, Orwell, Arrington, Wimpole Crofton w. Clopton (Ely).

The Rev Arnold Browne, Chaplain at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (Guildford); to be Dean of Chapel at Trinity College, Cambridge.

The Rev John Caldwell, to be Proctor of Holy Villa in Chichester Cathedral (Chichester).

The Rev Catherine Case, Parish Dean, Burton St Bartholomew, to be Minister in charge and Minister to the Care Agency, within the Hanley Team Ministry (Lichfield).

The Rev Rodney Chapman, Priest-in-charge, Kelloe (Durham); to be Vicar, Sharston (Wakefield).

The Rev John Clarke, Curate, Selly Park, St Stephen and St Whiston (Birmingham); to be Curate, St Mary of Bethany, Woking (Guildford).

The Rev Christopher Cookworth, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Epsom; to be Chaplain to Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (Guildford).

The Rev Dr Susan Cole-King, Team Dean, Dorchester Area Team Ministry; to be Minister in charge, Drayton (Oxford).

The Rev Ronald Crane, Priest-in-charge, St Mark, Washwood Heath; to be Vicar, St Mark, Washwood Heath (Birmingham). The Rev Graham Croy, Vicar, St Michael-le-Belfrey, York and a Proctor in Convocation (York); to be Principal of Ridley Hall Theological College, Cambridge.

The Rev Bernard Davies, Vicar, Braintree and Rural Dean of Braintree; to be also a Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral (Chelmsford).

The Rev Richard East, Curate, Neuton and Holme Hale (Norwich); to be Vicar, Garsdon, Lea and Cleverton and Charlton (Bristol).

The Rev Neil Follett, non-stipendiary Minister, Godmanchester; to be Vicar, Godmanchester (Ely).

The Rev Richard Ford, Vicar, Chippingdon; to be Vicar, Tyne-mouth Priory Holy Saviour (Newcastle).

The Rev Mark Gilbert, Assistant Curate, St Thomas, Stockton Heath (Chester); to be Rector, Tangmere and Oving (Chichester).

The Rev Nicholas Green, Vicar, Fenstanton and Hilton (Ely); to be Rector, Princes Risborough w. Ilmer (Oxford).

The Rev Peter Hartley, Director, Council for Education and Training (Chelmsford); to be also a Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral. The Rev Michael Kingston, Vicar, Church of the Ascension, Preston; to be also Sub-Dean of Greenwich North (Southwark).

Receptions

Theatres Trust
Mr Laurence Harbottle, Chairman-designate of the Theatres Trust, and the trustees gave a reception last night at the Saville Club to mark the retirement of Sir David Crouch as chairman.

Reform Club
Mr Richard Gennoch, chief executive of the Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd, and Miss Joyce Blow, chairman of the Mail Order Publishers' Authority, received guests at a reception held on Monday evening at the Reform Club to mark the launch of DMA (UK) Ltd.

Luncheons

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Members and the Secretary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England yesterday entertained Sir Geoffrey Ellerton at luncheon at Simpson's-in-the-Strand to mark his forthcoming retirement as chairman. Mr K.F.J. Ennals presided.

Luncheon Comment Club
Mrs Claire Rayner was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Luncheon Comment Club held yesterday at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Stuart Drummond, chairman, presided.

March 20 ON THIS DAY 1963

Not such a lovely war according to Joan Littlewood's spectacular production which took an ironic comic look at the first world war.

PANORAMA OF THE KAISER'S WAR

Theatre Royal, Stratford, E. Oh, What a Lovely War This panorama of the 1914-18 War, which Joan Littlewood has returned to Theatre Workshop to direct, is in every sense a group production. Mr Charles Chilton is excited with the idea of the show, but the finished article has been put together from songs of the music-hall and the trenches and from rehearsal improvisation. The programme also acknowledges a military adviser and an impressive list of source material ranging from the Army hierarchy from Lord Haig to Mr. Bert Sweet, an ex-gunner in the Depot Gun Brigade.

What emerges from this research is the familiar view of the 1914-18 War as a criminally wasteful adventure in which the staid courage of the common soldiers was equalled only by the sanctimonious incompetence of their commanders and the blind patriotism of the civilians. This approach is unlikely to appeal to send audiences streaming out of the theatre: the war is a sitting target for anyone who wants to deliver a bludgeoning social criticism without giving offence, and if this is the aim of Theatre Workshop, then they are more concerned with safety and the possibility of profitable West End transfers than they used to be.

However, as the show comes over, it is much more a tribute to the men in the trenches than an assault on the top brass. True, there are a good many scenes directed against those who grew fat on the war.

Haig utters his prayer on the eve of the big push: "I ask thee for victory, God, before the Americans arrive"; and an international party of armaments tycoons discuss their own partition of Europe in the course of a grouse school. But at such moments — and these are two of the best — the life goes out of the show.

This is partly because whenever indignation is allowed direct expression it goes against the nature of the production. The form is that of a 1914 pierrot show. The opening curtain goes up on a promenade act decked with coloured bulbs under which the troupe appear discharging volleys of backchat with the audience.

Once arrived they proceed with the "war game", beginning with farcically generalised processions of imperialists and nationalists, and gradually narrowing down to the events of 1914. With the aid of back projection and ticker-tape news flashes they convey a panoramic view in a succession of fragmentary sketches and songs. Bettina Dickson appears before a series of recruiting posters to select a selection of the sexually blackening numbers with which the women of England incited their men to enlist. Victor Spinetti rams home the brutal absurdities of bayonet drill in a fusillade of parade ground instructions containing not one comprehensive word.

Much of this ironic material is richly comic, but a rarer achievement of the production is its presentation of the men at the front — not only in sure-fire sketches such as one in which they sing ribald army lyrics during a military church service, but in capturing their human reactions to extreme situations. It takes an unusually well-developed sense of truth to stage a scene like the Christmas night fraternisation in no man's-land without becoming mawkish. Here, if anywhere, one senses Miss Littlewood's finest qualities as a director.

US provides account of 'friendly fire' Gulf deaths

By Helen Johnstone

THE American version of how nine British soldiers were killed by "friendly fire" during the Gulf war has been passed on to British legal authorities.

It has been disclosed that the new evidence, in a 25-page document provided by the Pentagon, was passed on to Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxford coroner, earlier this week.

The Americans' decision to give their account of how the soldiers died was disclosed during a successful application for a full jury inquest made on behalf of the families of six of the dead.

Nine soldiers died and eleven other men were injured when an American A10 aircraft fired on two British

armoured personnel carriers on February 26, last year.

Mr Gardiner said that it had been made clear that there was no question of anyone volunteering to give evidence at a British inquest and that he had no power to compel witnesses from abroad to do so. However, he said, the US written account of the killings could be used.

At yesterday's hearing, the coroner highlighted conflicting evidence from British and American military officials on the deaths. He said that it was in the public interest for a jury to give a verdict on how they died.

Mr Starmer, representing relatives of six of the privates from the 9th Royal Fusiliers Regiment, told the coroner that they wanted a jury called as a public watchdog to make sure that public confidence was not undermined.

Mr Starmer said: "It is clear that the death occurred because the system of communication between the ground and aircraft broke down. This was not the only incident of so-called friendly fire. An alarming number of deaths were caused by fire of some sort from the same side as the people who died."

Mr Starmer said that 40 per cent of British casualties had been as a result of such incidents, and he claimed that Nato operational procedures being followed at the time could lead to similar tragedies unless they were changed.

The coroner's decision to involve a jury was described as "just brilliant" by Barbara Thompson, from Coventry, whose 19-year-old son, Lee, died. Mrs Thompson said: "We are on the way. It's great. It is like climbing the first hurdle."

Mrs Thompson welcomed the arrival of the US dossier, but hoped that it would contain more detail than documents that she and other parents had previously received from the Americans. She said most of the salient points had been blacked out and that parents were left more confused than ever.

A British defence ministry enquiry found that no blame could be attached to the British troops, who were in the correct position and displaying the correct markings.

The inquest is not expected before May.

Major hits out over tax plans

Continued from page 1

that Labour's taxation plans would rip the heart out of the housing market and hit everyone who wanted to get on. He said that Labour wanted to return Britain to the "strait-jacket of socialism".

No party, he said, had ever launched such an onslaught on the security of hard working and middle income families. He accused the Opposition of wanting to raise taxes for millions of ordinary people at the same time as penalising others who relied on them for work. "It is an incredible proposal for a modern political party to make — a devil's cocktail of incompetence and malice which defies belief."

Mr Major said Labour's vision for the 1990s was clear: "If it is successful — tax it, penalise it, control it, nationalise it. Never offer hope or encouragement."

If there were ever a Labour government, he said: "I warn you not to be ambitious. I warn you not to be qualified. I warn you not to be successful. I warn you not to be self-employed. I warn you not to accept promotion. I warn you not to save. I warn you not to buy a pension. I warn you not to own a home."



Comrades in peace: two Serb boys playing at being United Nations peacekeeping soldiers yesterday in Mirkovci, near the frontline in eastern Croatia, where gun fire echoed within earshot of UN troops taking up positions between the warring Serbs and Croats. They will set up three protected zones in the republic

Tsongas pull-out prompts new fears over Clinton

Continued from page 1

costly. For a while the transformation appeared to be working, delivering victories in Maryland and Massachusetts, Rhode Island and a sprinkling of other small states. But the South's "Super Tuesday" on March 7 was a disaster; the "rustbelt" this week reinforced the pattern. Yesterday the strain of big-league politics finally became too much.

For Mr Clinton and his supporters the announcement was a double delight. Their closest rival was removed, although since Super Tuesday they had had no doubt that they would beat him eventually. More importantly, it took away the sense of an ambitious underdog waiting for the star to be struck down. Mr Clinton is now the popularly elected leading man of the Democratic party. But every day, newspapers publish articles in which unnamed senior Democrats express their doubts about whether his past will catch up with him before the final votes are cast.

Little Rock, the concrete frontier-town capital of Arkansas, has become the semi-permanent home of amateur Republican detectives looking for dirt on the Clintons' alleged extramarital and financial relationships. The White House is confident that, in the ditch of the month, "another shoe will sometime drop".

The withdrawal of Mr Tsongas does, however, suggest that the man best able to benefit from a dropping shoe did not see a scandal looming in the near future. Mr Tsongas knew that he would not have won New Hampshire without the help



Tsongas: out of the presidential race

of Jennifer Flowers, alleged to have had a long-running affair with Mr Clinton. Senator Bob Kerrey, who withdrew just before Super Tuesday, was also under financial pressure and took a similar view of Mr Clinton's strong hold on the nomination. Even before Mr Tsongas's decision was known, Mr Clinton was back home here taking some rest and relaxing with friends and family. For months, his image as a good father has had to depend on correcting his daughter's alleged homework by fax. On Wednesday he took her to school and practised a little golf.

Mr Clinton's top aide, James Carville, described Mr Tsongas's demise as the inevitable end of the "bric and abracadabra candidate" whose appeal could never extend far beyond the yuppies of New England.

But Mr Tsongas deserves a more generous tribute than that. He showed Democrats that primaries could be won by a pro-business candidate who did not pander to activist minorities. He added "there is no Santa Claus" to the American political lexicon.

Kennedy delayed on way to altar

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

SENATOR Edward Kennedy's much publicised effort to turn his life around in the wake of the Palm Beach rape case has run into an obstacle in the shape of the Catholic church.

The Cardinal of the Boston archdiocese has warned the newly-engaged senator that he may not be allowed a church wedding even though he comes from America's most famous Catholic family. Cardinal Law said he considers that Senator Kennedy is married to his wife, Joan, even though the two obtained a civil divorce in 1982 after 24 years together.

"Senator Kennedy, in the eyes of the church, is married and, as long as he is married, he is not free to enter into another marriage," Cardinal Law said.

Unless the couple receives an annulment from a church tribunal, Senator Kennedy will not be allowed a church wedding and the Catholic church will not recognise a civil ceremony.

Acrimony at palace as the Yorks split

Continued from page 1

was being watched by reporters. I think the thing that has stung most is that it was revealed in the *Daily Mail* — and they say she can only have been the original source of this — the fact she had a private lunch with the Queen."

Palace officials subsequently denied that they had named any particular public relations consultant, but privately confirmed their belief and their anger that one had been consulted by the duchess with a view to having her side of the story across before the palace could comment officially. There had been speculation that leading PR man Sir Timothy Bell's firm had been involved, but he said yesterday: "It is absolutely not true. I have not spoken to the duchess. It is very damaging to suggest that I am in any way involved."

A lawyer representing the Duchess, thought to be Charles Doughty of the leading London firm Withers, has been in negotiation for some days with Sir Matthew Farrer, the Queen's solicitor, over the precise terms of a separation. The main issues

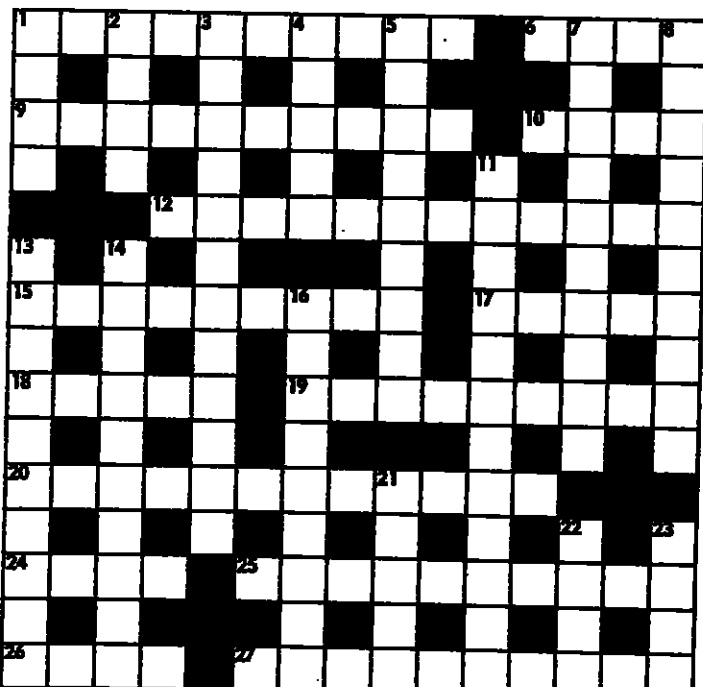
will be custody of the children, rights of contact for the other parent, who continues to live at the couple's home at Sunninghill Park, near Windsor, and what financial arrangements are to be made for the duchess.

Any question of her formal title is unlikely to arise until and unless the separation proceeds to divorce, which, given the precedents of Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal, will not be for at least two years. For the time being she remains Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York.

The duke attended his course at the Army Staff College, Camberley, yesterday, while the duchess took her elder daughter, Princess Beatrice, to nursery school. The couple were spending last night under the same roof at Sunninghill Park. The duke returned at 4pm after a routine day at the college. The duchess and Beatrice returned shortly after 6pm.

Fairytale turns sour, page 2
Dividing the nation, page 16
Diary, page 17
Leading article, page 17
Sadly ever after, L&T, page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,871



- ACROSS**
- In her case, he'd terribly bad luck (4,6)
 - Make incisive attack in essay (4)
 - Essential factor behind policy (4,4)
 - Misfortune with Jack for her (4)
 - Fakes reform of secret unit (12)
 - Naval officer bringing butterfly to bad end? Right (9)
 - West End bank rebuffed revolting character (5)
 - Sauce bottle (5)
 - Arranged for players to study teaching qualification (9)
 - In which you'll find widespread German money, and French? (6,6)
 - Wine tasting section (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,869

ACROSS
1. HURD
2. ESSAY
3. POLICY
4. JACK
5. SECRET
6. BUTTERFLY
7. WEST
8. SAUCE
9. STUDY
10. GERMAN
11. FRENCH
12. WINE
13. TASTING
14. SECTION

- DOWN**
- Tramp found in fairy ring (4)
 - Judges' successor showing mercy (4)
 - Colour television showing sort of picture that's over-sentimental (9,3)
 - Female characters surrounding M, so to speak (5)
 - Has dinner cooked for assembled lawmakers (9)
 - A trifle — sample about one bottle with it (10)
 - Coping with supporters (10)
 - Unofficially, it could be hard for defector (3,3,6)
 - As a rebel, I trick 15, finally (10)
 - I appear on time with American musical works (10)
 - Carry out analysis of French fashion (9)
 - Libertines' inclinations (5)
 - Surrender capital, none the less (4)
 - It's for maid's or mason's head (4)

Concise crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- DON JOHN**
a. A large container for spirits
b. The original designer
c. A saviour of Christianity
COMMISSION
a. Deputation
b. Making smaller
c. A communist state
HELVE
a. A Swiss burgher
b. The handle of a tool
c. To give board and lodging to
PANTOPHAGOUS
a. Omnivorous
b. The Chinese snow goose
c. Wearing slippers

Answers on page 18

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National	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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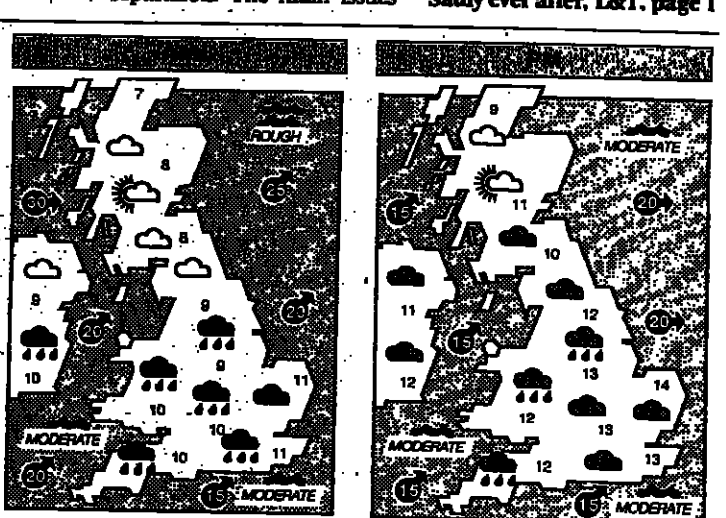
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England and Wales will have a mainly cloudy day with rain or drizzle in places, more particularly in western coastal counties and across central England. Scotland and Northern Ireland will see rather cloudy skies and a few sunny intervals. A band of rain will affect these areas later, followed by clearer weather. Outlook: showers, heavy at times, but also some sunshine

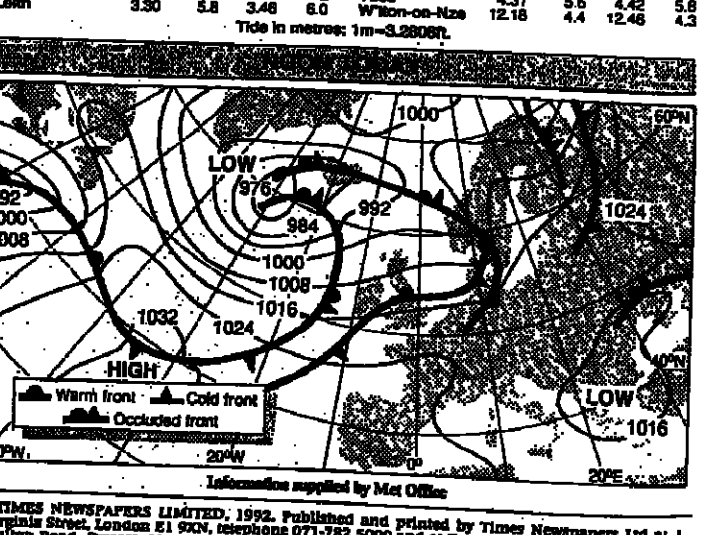
MIDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=cloud; 6=rain; 7=heavy rain; 8=heavy snow; 9=heavy sleet; 10=heavy hail; 11=heavy ice; 12=heavy snow; 13=heavy sleet; 14=heavy hail; 15=heavy ice	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sun	Max	Min
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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Germany	707
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Hong Kong	709
Ireland	710
Italy	711
Japan	712
Netherlands	713
Norway	714
Portugal	715
South Africa	716
Spain	717
Sweden	718
Switzerland	719
Taiwan	720
USA	721
Yugoslavia	722



Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sun	Max	Min
London	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10	10	10



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THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY MARCH 20 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

C&W deal leaves only one competitor

Mercury and Unitel group agree merger

By Derek Harris

CABLE and Wireless's Mercury Personal Communications Network (PCN) is merging with the Unitel consortium, which is in the process of being taken over by US West.

The merger leaves only one competitor in the mobile "phone in the pocket" market. Microtel, a former consortium whose leader British Aerospace took control and then sold out to Hutchison, the telecommunications group based in Hong Kong.

Mercury and Unitel will be equal partners in what will be known as Mercury Personal Communications. Richard Goswell, managing director of Mercury's PCN, and Andrew Sukewy, Unitel's chief operating officer, will bring their respective titles to the new company to hold the two top jobs.

Mercury wants to reduce investment costs on the personal communications network substantially. Lord Young, chairman of C&W, said there had been exploratory talks with Microtel to share the cost of developing the infrastructure for a PCN network. Any company developing a national PCN infrastructure on its own faces a bill of about £1 billion.

Mercury PC will also keep investment costs under control, by restricting development "initially" to London, roughly within the M25 per-

imeter. Only when the London system is fully established is Mercury likely to revive plans to extend to Birmingham and along motorways.

Lord Young said: "It is possible we might have a set of companies, one for London and others for other key conurbations. We have done this in Japan successfully, with networks in Tokyo and Osaka. Anybody who wants a national service which is more expensive and of lesser quality can go to Vodafone and Cellnet."

Mercury PC is likely to spend about £250 million on developing the London service. This is likely to be launched in the middle of next year, Lord Young said. "After that, we should be in profit within three to four years."

C&W expects to write off £50 million in the year to the end of this month, to go towards the cost of a restructuring that includes bringing three separate divisions into one, providing premium services to business.

Savings for C&W of about £75 million over the next 12 months have been forecast as the PCN deal and business services restructuring bring capital and operating expenses gains.

Lord Young signalled that the company will stick to the markets it has developed in Asia, Europe and North America. He said: "Our priority will be to offer selected

international business users, operating across our areas, networks for data and voice services, the fastest growing sector of the market. We will leave the building of infrastructure where they are not represented to the telecommunications giants who can have their visions and their balance sheet battles."

C&W announced this week the departure of Peter van Cuylenburg, executive director in charge of the company's businesses in member states of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. His hopes of becoming chief executive of the company were dashed last month, when James Ross was appointed to the post. Mr Ross had been a BP group managing director based in America.

C&W said the departure was "a loss". Mr van Cuylenburg said he was leaving to become president and chief operating officer of Next Computer in California, because it was "an opportunity".

US West is increasing its commitment in the PCN market in taking up the 50 per cent share in the merger and is not, for itself, predicting any savings. In the Unitel consortium, the US West share has recently been about 38 per cent, the same as Britain's Thorn EMI. Northern Telecom of Canada held the balance of 24 per cent.

Lending drops sharply

By Colin Nibbrough, Economics Correspondent

A FEBRUARY slump in bank and building society lending, detailed in the latest Bank of England figures, shows that confidence is still at a low ebb and that there is scant hope of recovery this quarter.

Revised data on gross domestic product show that in the final quarter of last year, the economy, excluding North Sea oil, had contracted by 2.7 per cent compared with the last quarter of 1990. That was slightly worse than previously reported.

The Bank said the rise in M4 lending to companies and individuals slid to only £400 million, from £3.7 billion in January. City forecasters had expected a February figure of about £2.8 billion. The drop, which reflected continued retrenchment in

the face of economic and political uncertainty, brought the year-on-year rise in lending down from 6.2 per cent in January to 6 per cent in February, the slowest growth rate since the late Sixties.

Growth in M0, the narrow money measure still targeted by the Treasury, held steady at 2.2 per cent, consistent with other pointers suggesting that consumers are still reluctant to borrow. Retail sales figures on Wednesday showed that volume rose by 0.4 per cent in February but remained flat over the latest three months.

The British Bankers' Association issued separate data that showed lending to the private sector rising by over £1.5 billion last month, against a £400 million increase in January. The average rise in the past six months was £600 million. Personal lending rose by £145 million in February but individuals repaid £270 million of credit. Loan repayments in January and February exceeded December borrowing.

Industrial output shrank by an alarming 1.3 per cent in January, fueling City fears that the recession, already the longest for 60 years, will continue for a seventh quarter.

Gross trading profits of UK companies fell slightly to

£18.49 billion in the fourth quarter last year. Profits for the whole of 1991 dropped about £1.3 billion to £73.4 billion.

In the personal sector, real disposable income fell by 0.5 per cent in the final quarter of 1991 and was 0.4 per cent down over the whole year.

OFT targets new credit card fees

By Lindsay Cook, Money Editor

THE Office of Fair Trading has started an inquiry into the charges that credit card and debit card issuers levy on retailers. Barclays Bank, the largest card issuer, is now writing to shops and other businesses telling them of increases of up to 10 per cent on credit card fees. The transaction fee for its Connect debit card is also being increased from an average of 10.5p to 12p.

Retailers pay card companies every time a customer pays with a card. Small shops pay the most. The average fee is 1.6 per cent and the average transaction is £40, giving the bank 64p per purchase. This will increase by 5p or 6p,



Unlikely rumour: Anthony Tennant responded to bid speculation yesterday

Guinness chief cautious

By Martin Waller

GUINNESS, the world's most profitable drinks group, has moved to play down market speculation that it would bid for the Courage brewing business, the British arm of Foster's Brewing of Australia.

Anthony Tennant, the chairman of Guinness, said: "I think it's one of the more unlikely rumours." He was presenting pre-tax profits for 1991, that further demonstrated the strength of the group in the face of the recession. Pre-tax profits rose from £847 million to £956 million in the year to end-December. Fully diluted earnings per share were ahead from 29.2p to 33.6p and a final dividend of 7.75p makes a total up from 9.37p to 10.80p. But a note of caution on prospects sent the share price, already

weak over the past month, off 14p to 556p.

Mr Tennant said that 1991 had been a difficult year in some markets, given the impact of the Gulf war and the recession. Cruzcampo, the Spanish beer business bought at the start of the year, had contributed profits of £61 million, more than covering the financing cost and confirming predictions that it would not dilute earnings.

The British market for beer had been exceptionally difficult, while the market in North America and Australia had also suffered. Mr Tennant said: "There seems to be little prospect of a speedy end to recession in several major markets, notably the UK and North Ameri-

ca, and there is evidence of slowing economic growth in Europe and some other parts of the world. He said 1992 "may therefore see conditions which are no easier for international businesses than 1991. We see quite a tough trading environment out there, but within that we hope to achieve acceptable growth in profits."

Turnover for 1991 was up 16 per cent to £4,067 billion, but, stripping out the effect of acquisitions, the rise was only 1 per cent. The LVMH luxury goods business in France, in which Guinness indirectly holds a 24 per cent stake, reported net attributable profits up 10.7 per cent in 1991 to FF3,74 billion.

Times, page 24

Waste giant in eve of election float

By Martin Barrow

WASTE Management International, the American-owned waste disposal company, is proposing to raise up to £483 million through an international share offer next month.

The issue will value WMI at up to £2.4 billion, making it larger than GPA, the aircraft leasing company that unveiled details of its own international share offer earlier this week.

The shares will be listed in London and New York, and will be valued at between 530p and 645p, with the final price being determined on April 6, just three days before the general election. Conditional dealings begin on April 7.

About half of the proceeds will be used to repay borrowings owed to Waste Management Inc, its American parent, with the balance to fund acquisitions and develop greenfield businesses.

WMI, which effectively owns Waste Management's operations outside America, earned pre-tax profits of £96.4 million last year on turnover of £606.9 million and has been growing at a rate of around 30 per cent a year. It operates in 13 countries, including Britain.

WMI's proposed rating will test institutional confidence. The mid-point offer price of 587.5p implies an historic price/earnings multiple of 32.6, based on pro-forma earnings of 18p a share in 1991. Existing quoted waste management companies in Britain command a rating of around 16.

A total of 75 million new shares will be issued, representing 20 per cent of WMI's enlarged share capital. In Britain 26.25 million shares will be placed with institutions, with 5 per cent of this available to brokers for private clients. A further 30 million are being offered in North America and the balance to investors outside Britain, America and Canada.

Following the offer, Waste Management Inc will own 56 per cent of the company, while Chemical Waste Inc and Wheelabrator Technologies Inc will each own 12 per cent.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

LA DIFFERENCE

The tax plans of Norman Lamont and John Smith differ not so much from each other as from those found in the rest of Europe
Page 25

TONIC

Smith & Nephew, the medical group, suffered flat profits last year but is raising the final dividend to 2.69 a share, making 4.44p (4.35p)
Times, page 24

DRIVEN TO LOSS

GRE

Guardian Royal Exchange has suffered a record loss and cut its dividend because of mounting car theft
Page 19

TOMORROW

PROFILE

Sir Christopher Benson, chairman of Boots and MEPC, had his career plans thwarted by a car accident as a young man. His tenacity helped

MONEY CHOICE

Weekend Money will be looking at what the main political parties would mean for personal finances

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7120 (-0.0170)
German mark 2.8573 (+0.0032)
Exchange Index 89.8 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1923.1 (-2.7)
FT-SE 100 2467.6 (+2.9)
New York Dow Jones 3262.52 (+8.27)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20185.09 (+420.78)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month eligible bills 10%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.05-4.04%
30-year bonds 100%
100%
100%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£: \$1.7114
£: DM 2.8583
£: Sfr 2.5910
£: FF 9.7008
£: Yen 228.13
£: Index 89.8
ECU 10.714507
SDR 1.263995
London forex market close

GOLD

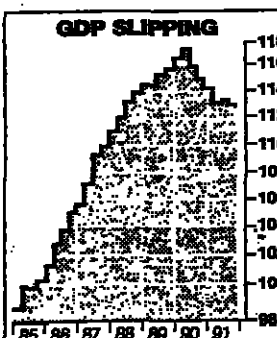
London Fixing: AM \$338.50 pm \$337.80
close \$336.35-336.25 (\$196.30-197.00)
New York: COMEX \$337.35-337.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) \$17.85 bbl (\$17.70)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price



Stars shine through recession

By Martin Barrow

DAVID Goldman, who in just over a decade has built up an international software company worth £90 million, was named entrepreneur of the year in the Coopers Deloitte PLC Awards for 1991, organised in association with The Times, at the Grosvenor House hotel, London, last night.

Mr Goldman is chairman of Sage Group, a supplier of accountancy software and networking products for personal computers. Award panels describe him as "an entrepreneur in the classical mould" who spotted an opportunity and changed career to capitalise on it.

He founded Sage in 1981, obtaining a stock market listing in 1989. The offer price was 130p, valuing Sage at

£22 million. Today the shares closed at 439p.

Since 1986, profits have grown 58 per cent a year on average. In 1991, despite the severe recession, Mr Goldman moved to acquire DacEasy Inc, an American accountancy software specialist, for \$18 million. Other nominees were James Frost (Frost Group), Rolf Schild (Huntleigh Technology), Paul Lever (Lionheart), David Crossland (Airtours) and Jimmy Moir (Jeyes).

The Coopers Deloitte company of the year award goes to Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals business. In two years Medeva has grown from an £8 million concern into the world's fifth-largest supplier of vaccines, with a market capital-

COOPERS
DELOITTE
PLC
AWARDS
1991

isation in excess of £570 million.

Medeva, whose chairman is Bernard Taylor, a former chief executive of Glaxo, now enjoys a full listing in London. Its ADRs are quoted on Amex in New York and American investors hold 25 per cent of the issued share capital. Making the award, Coopers Deloitte said that Medeva demonstrated that "correct acquisition decisions, followed by strong internal growth, can produce

startling results". Medeva was selected ahead of Jeyes, Lionheart, Huntleigh, Farepak, Seton Healthcare and Intercare.

New company of the year is Eurocamp, the self-drive holiday specialist, which defeated challenges from Harrington Kilbride, Clarke Foods, Frost Group and Airbreak Leisure.

Jeff Douglas, of Smith New Court, was named analyst of the year. The shortlist included Mary Fleming (Smith New Court), Penny Freer (County NatWest), Andrew Holland (Barclays de Zoete Wedd), John Hordill (Hoare Govett) and Mitchell Teager (Albert E Sharp).

Airtours was the best performing share of the year, rising 433 per cent, followed by Prospect Industries (\$78 per cent).

The world's first airport with foundations 100m deep.

Before we started opencast mining on the site of a derelict steelworks in Sheffield, we agreed to lay the foundations for an airport and business park when we finished.

It's part of our commitment to putting something back, whether we're restoring farmland to its former glory or creating country parks from scratch. It's this kind of attitude that has made us the successful business we are today.

Can you think of another industry that holds every British and European productivity record going, while winning environmental awards at the same time? And makes a profit too?

No wonder business takes off when we're around.

British COAL

THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED

Laing unveils loss, cuts payout and revalues property

BY MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in John Laing, the construction group, fell 32p to 128p after the company unveiled a surprise pre-tax loss of £65.3 million for 1991. It has written down its land bank and commercial property portfolio by £83.2 million. In 1990, Laing made a profit of £20.1 million.

However, the shares quickly recovered to close at 155p after it became clear that the huge writedown presented no threat to the group's balance sheet. "The basic difference between Laing and some other building companies, is that they can afford these provisions," one analyst said. Despite the losses, Laing still finished the year with over £23 million of cash in the balance sheet.

Unlike other groups reporting losses, Laing has cut its final dividend, from 10p to 6p, making a total of 9p, against 13p. Martin Laing,

chairman, said the decision to cut the dividend was "part caution and part optimism". It showed that the group thought it could cover its dividend in the future.

Mr Laing said the writedown reflected continuing difficulty in forecasting the end of the recession. The group had to make sure that asset values carried forward were realistic.

Laing's total provisions were £87.8 million; the value of the South-East of England residential land bank was reduced by £44 million. The same land bank was written down by only £12 million at the end of 1990. "We thought about it last year," Mr Laing said, "and again at the half year, but even then we were expecting some recovery in the housing market."

House sales by Laing Homes dropped from 2,005 to 1,670 in Britain last year

and produced an operating loss for the group. The average selling price was steady at £68,500. Mr Laing said any recovery after the election would be modest, owing to the number of repossessed homes on the market.

Laing's American house-building operation saw a small sales increase, from 360 to 374, with the Californian operation contributing an operating profit. The group's total land bank is 5,700 plots in Britain and 2,750 in America, including 2,150 in California.

Away from the misery of housing, Laing performed better. Construction saw an 11 per cent increase in operating profit to £30.9 million. During the year, it won a £75 million contract to build a new hospital in Glasgow and a £44 million contract for four new halls at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. However, the division's forward order book has fallen from £1.9 billion to £1.4 billion and Mr Laing said he expected 1992 to be more difficult, with margins falling from last year's 2.4 per cent to about 2 per cent.

Losses in the property development division continued and rose from £3.1 million to £3.9 million. There were writedowns on developments in Belfast and Peterborough and certain development sites. The capital value of the country house hotel chain owned jointly with Richard Branson's Voyager group was also written down.

Off-balance-sheet borrowings total £77 million, including some £17 million of working capital linked to the second Severn Bridge that Laing is building in joint venture with CMA of France. Brought on to the balance sheet, that would give the company gearing of around 30 per cent.



Better outside: Martin Laing is building less in Britain but more in America

UniChem leaves Macarthy battle

BY MARTIN BARROW

UNICHEM, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, has formally withdrawn from the takeover contest for control of Macarthy, the Savory and Moore chemist group.

The decision, which had been expected, leaves the way open for Lloyds Chemists, Britain's second-largest retail chemist behind Boots, to complete its £93.6 million recommended offer for Macarthy.

Peter Dodd, chief executive of UniChem, said that an offer at such a level as would now be required to secure the acquisition "would not be in the best interests of UniChem shareholders".

The company, which raised £35 million through a rights issue in December, said it was well placed to expand its wholesaling activities in Britain and mainland Europe, and its UK retail chain.

UniChem's pre-tax profits in 1991 were £21.4 million, up from £16.35 million in 1990, and ahead of the rights issue forecast of profits of not less than £21 million. Earnings were 13.6p a share, fully diluted, compared with 12.4p.

A final dividend of 3.3p a share makes a total of 5p for the year, compared with last year's single payment of 1.5p. Turnover rose from £873 million to £920 million and operating profits from £19.3 million to £21.7 million.

In the first two months of this year, sales of over-the-counter goods, including toiletries and beauty products, were substantially higher than in the comparable period of 1991. Mr Dodd is to retire in May and will be succeeded by Jeff Harris, deputy chief executive since September.

Dairy Farm seeks quote in London

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

DAIRY Farm International Holdings, the retail associate of the Jardine Matheson Group, is seeking a listing in London and a secondary listing in Hong Kong.

Dairy Farm's move is expected to be followed by other listed firms of the Jardine stable. The group prefers to be regulated by British authorities than the Chinese government which will take over the colony in 1997.

Owen Price, managing director, said net profits for 1991 dropped 3 per cent to US\$146.8 million due to losses from the Simago supermarket chain in Spain.

Mr Price said Kwik Save, in which Dairy Farm has 25 per cent, increased its UK market share to 8 per cent. A final dividend of 3.25 cents will be paid, making 4.6 cents for the year (same).

Johnson Cleaners hit by property setback

JOHNSON Group Cleaners, which claims to be the biggest dry-cleaning company in Britain and America, is maintaining its dividend, despite a small decline in full-year taxable profits. A lower surplus on property sales at the Merseyside-based company was largely responsible for an 8.1 per cent reduction in pre-tax profits to £16 million in the year to December 28. Total turnover grew 3.5 per cent to £154.5 million.

Terry Greer, chairman, said the group has produced a "commendable performance" and a small increase in profit before surplus, despite the effects of the prolonged recession on both sides of the Atlantic. UK dry-cleaning sales were static. Final dividend is held at 18.7p, giving shareholders an unchanged total of 25.7p for the year. Fully diluted earnings, excluding property surplus, increased by 3.7 per cent to 48.7p a share. "As yet there is no sign whatsoever of a recovery in trading conditions and we remain cautious on the outlook for 1992," added Mr Greer.

Vinten lifts dividend

VINTEN Group, the specialist optical, broadcast and camera equipment manufacturer, has lifted its dividend to 4.8p (4.5p), making a total of 6.6p for the year (6.2p). The recovery in the group's surveillance systems activities and reduced interest costs helped pre-tax profits advance 6.1 per cent to £9.18 million in the year to end-December, although turnover dipped by 1 per cent to £63.3 million. Earnings climbed from 19.8p a share to 20.5p. Gearing has been cut to 31 per cent from 97 per cent.

Davis holds payout

DAVIS Service Group, the business services concern formerly known as Godfrey Davis, is holding the total dividend for 1991 at 7.98p a share with an unchanged 5.25p final, despite a decline in pre-tax profits from £22.25 million to £16.67 million. Earnings were 13.24p a share, down from 17.57p. There was an extraordinary charge of £2.92 million, which included a loss of £2 million on the disposal of three out of four of the company's Ford dealerships in July.

Law boosts Caird

CAIRD, the waste management company, said tightening environmental legislation is lifting business, as it reported an increase in pre-tax profits from £4.86 million to £5.87 million for 1991. A 1.37p final dividend lifts the total from 2.4p to 3.77p, payable on earnings of 6.88p a share, fully diluted, against 5.13p. John Ashton, chairman, said the placing of Severn Trent's 29.9 per cent stake in the company in October, removing the threat of a renewed takeover bid, gave "an enormous boost to morale".

Bumpy ride for BSG

BSG International suffered from poor trading conditions in all geographical areas, except Germany, in the year ended December, and pre-tax profits fell to £11.1 million (£13.1 million). Group turnover was £569.8 million, down from £649 million, of which vehicle distribution and leasing accounted for a reduced £330.6 million (£410.8 million). The Budget car tax reduction should bring a better trading performance. Total dividend is held at 3.2p, with a 2.5p final — just covered by net earnings of 3.32p a share (4.29p).

Buoyant Wassall defies slowdown

BY MARTIN WALLER

IN A buoyant trading state, Wassall, the industrial conglomerate run by former Hanson executives, has reported pre-tax profits advanced by 35 per cent to £10.3 million in the year to end-December, despite the depressed state of the economies in which the group operates.

Earnings per share growth was less spectacular because of Wassall's hefty acquisition programme, which continued with the £55 million purchase of the American DAP building products business in September; the figure rising 9 per cent to 13p. Shareholders will see a final dividend of 2p,

making a total up 0.5p to 3p, and there is a one-for-two bonus share issue.

Chris Miller, the chairman, said results from DAP had exceeded initial expectations, and the business would make a significant contribution to this year's profits.

Borrowings, at a peak of £47 million in January 1990 after the purchase of Metal Closures, had come down by £10 million to £24 million during 1991, and the interest charge was cut from £5.6 million to £4.7 million.

The shares jumped 7p to 233p. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of about £17 million this year.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

GENERAL MANAGER

The Company is a leader in Industrial, Commercial and Domestic cleaning and pest control. With a work force of almost 1000, it operates widely throughout the Sultanate of Oman, serving mainly Government organisations and private companies. It now seeks a General Manager to manage all aspects of its current operation and to lead it through its next stage of growth and development.

The successful applicant will have a demonstrable track record in management and business development for an office cleaning company or other organisation based on contract labour. Experience of pest control, waste management or other commercial services will be an advantage.

He or she is likely to be aged between 35-45 with a relevant degree or equivalent professional qualification, probably in Engineering. Nationality is less important than the ability to lead a successful team in public tendering and selling to companies. Fluency in English is required and a knowledge of Arabic is desirable. Package is dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Please send your CV and covering letter to:
13 Consort Lodge,
Prince Albert Road,
London
NW5 7LX

UNITED NATIONS Translator's Training Programme



A United Nations translator training programme in English for candidates of African nationality will be held in Cameroon from October 1992 to April 1993. The purpose of this training programme is to prepare candidates to sit the official United Nations competitive examination for the recruitment of English translators/proof-writers scheduled for mid-1993. In the case of successful African candidates, who have benefited from the training programme, the initial assignment would be to the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Candidates for this training programme will be selected on the basis of a written examination followed by an interview. The examination is scheduled for June 1992. The examination is open to qualified holders of African national passports who must:

- Have English as their main language;
- Have a perfect command of English and an excellent knowledge of French. They must also have an excellent knowledge of Arabic, Russian or Spanish;
- Hold a degree or an equivalent qualification from a university or institution of equivalent status at which English is the principal language of instruction.

Candidates living in Africa should obtain the application form for admission to the enrolment examination from the closest United Nations Information Centre or United Nations Development Programme office and return the completed form to the same address or from the following address and return it to the same address no later than 1 May 1992:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Personnel Section, Division of Administration
P.O. Box 3007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Candidates living in Europe should obtain the application form for admission to the enrolment examination from the following address and return the completed form to the same address no later than 1 May 1992:

Secretariat Recruitment Section
ECA Translators Training Programme
Room 266, United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Telecommunications Industry Major Change Role

Fiji Posts and Telecommunications was changed from a Government Department to a company two years ago. Significant technical advancements have been made since then. The company has a \$50m turnover and 1500 staff, and is now entering a major growth phase in a country of three quarters of a million people.

The Board is seeking to appoint a Chief Executive to work with the management team to effect further significant change:

- increased commercial focus
- a strong customer focus
- improved financial performance
- position the company to exploit emerging telecommunications technologies

The position provides the potential satisfaction of effecting major strategic change in an organisation, and managing a high profile organisation. The appointment is located in Fiji's capital, Suva.

A generous package (including relocation costs) will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will have:

- A proven record of achievement in business.
- Demonstrated skills and experience in managing change.
- A working appreciation of the technology developments driving change in the telecommunications area.
- The skills to communicate with customers and the highest level of Government.
- A broad strategic vision.
- Be accepted as a leader and demonstrate the capabilities to motivate others.

Direct experience in the telecommunications industry would be an advantage.

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Wellington, New Zealand
Fax 64-4-472 2933

Further preliminary details are available in the UK from:
John Neighbour
Ph 0275 375651

The closing date for applications is Friday 3 April 1992

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CLASSIFIED POST

SECTION 1

ASSISTANT TO REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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Laura Ashley signs joint deal to solve delivery problems

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Laura Ashley, the retail group that has 540 shops around 28 countries, has formed a £150 million partnership with Federal Express Business Logistics to handle all its distribution. The deal, which will run for a minimum of ten years, will cost Laura Ashley £4.5 million in initial costs, and is expected to be self-financing within two years.

Andrew Higginson, finance director, said the group would save around £1.5 million a year in distribution costs and a further £1 million in wage costs. In addition £3 million of capital expenditure earmarked for new systems would no longer need to be spent.

Jim Maxmin, the recently appointed chief executive of Laura Ashley, said that the group's existing systems are

so complicated and inefficient that when a woman in Cleveland who was two months pregnant ordered a Moses basket, the baby arrived before the basket was delivered.

Another customer in California waited a year for delivery of a furnishing fabric. Mr Maxmin says: "At present there is a tendency to give you the sheets and then send the matching pillow cases six months later, sometimes with a price increase. We are giving out £25 vouchers the whole time to people who have been kept waiting. This deal will solve all these problems."

Under the new system, Laura Ashley plans to be able to deliver anywhere in the world within 48 hours by September 1993 — but delivery times should improve dramatically before then. The group is closing five warehouses and cutting 60 jobs internationally. There will be other savings from lower stock levels and the ability of shops to free up space. In future shops will hold samples of furnishing fabrics rather than rolls.

The 300 jobs at the Welsh distribution headquarters in Newtown will transfer automatically to Federal Express, which is taking over the existing system.

The Business Logistics arm of Federal Express is unaffected by news that the parent company is cutting nearly 3,400 jobs in the UK in a restructuring of its loss-making European operations.

The Memphis-based group said earlier this week that it is closing 36 of its 39 sites in Britain as part of a retrenchment that will cut 7,000 jobs, or 72 per cent of the European workforce.

Laura Ashley shares rose 1p to 95p.

GRE cuts dividend after record losses

BY NEIL BENNETT

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange, the insurance group, has slashed its final dividend by two thirds after suffering a record £210 million loss due to rising claims from car theft, subsidence and mortgage indemnities.

The result compares with a £157 million loss in 1990 and has prompted GRE to cut its final dividend from 7.5p to 2.6p, making 7p for the year, down 41 per cent.

Sid Hopkins, the chief executive, said 1991 had been a second year of unsatisfactory performance but that the figures masked an underlying improvement. "We have taken firm actions to restore profitability," he said.

The group has continued to reorganise by merging its Australian business with Zurich Insurance in return for a 25 per cent stake in the enlarged Zurich Australian Holdings.

The disposal of the Australian arm is the latest move by GRE to jettison its underperforming businesses. The group has also sold its operations in New Zealand, the Caribbean, Kenya and Italy.

as well as its farming subsidiary. Mr Hopkins said the group's priorities were in Britain and Europe, followed by the Far East. GRE's American and Canadian operations could be sold if they underperformed.

Most of GRE's losses came from its British business, which was hit by losses of £177 million. These included an underwriting loss of £66 million from motor insurance. GRE has raised its motor premiums four times in the past year to try to return the business to profit.

The group has lost almost a quarter of its 880,000 customers in the process. Mr Hopkins said more may follow. The fall in motor premiums was countered by a rise in household business. GRE's policies are now being sold by the Nationwide Building Society. However, subsidence claims of £50 million sent this sector to an underwriting loss of £56 million, although GRE has now introduced its differential premiums for houses at risk from subsidence.

Comment, page 25



Round figure: Tom Farmer of Kwik-Fit, which has announced improved pre-tax profits of £32 million

Kwik-Fit Holdings emerges fitter

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

KWIK-FIT Holdings, the car repair group, has emerged fitter and more profitable in the past year in spite of a potentially damaging report from *Which?* the Consumers' Association magazine, which suggested that some Kwik-Fit depots had recommended unnecessary work to be done on a car.

Tom Farmer, Kwik-Fit's chairman and chief executive, takes exception to the way the research was done and disagrees with the findings. But he says that it resulted in the group taking a long hard look at itself. He has now formed an association with the AA which is carrying out checks on Kwik-Fit depots and examining the work done in them.

Kwik-Fit made pre-tax profits of £32.1 million in the year to end-February, an increase of 65.7 per cent. Turnover rose 17 per cent to £254 million and the net interest charge fell from £5.46 million to £1.6 million. Earnings rose 73 per cent to 13.2p and the final dividend is 2p, making 3.35p, an increase of 21.8 per cent.

Mr Farmer said that 13 per cent of the increase in turnover came from established depots and 4 per cent from new outlets. There are now 599 Kwik-Fit outlets, 477 of which are in the UK. Operating margins increased from 10 to 13 per cent, partly due to price increases, and sales of tyres were boosted by around 40 per cent in December when new legislation came into effect.

Mr Farmer denied that the company was benefiting from the recession. "No one benefits in a recession," he said.

The Dutch business, which has 122 depots, made profits of around £5 million and was up on last year. There are plans to expand in Belgium and the group has 27 new depots scheduled for opening in the UK in the current year. Mr Farmer says that in the longer term the group would like to have 750 to 800 depots in Britain.

AWA expects more tough times for paper market

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ARJO Wiggins Appleton (AWA), the Anglo-French paper manufacturer, is expecting tough trading conditions for the rest of this year after reporting an 11 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £231.5 million in 1991, compared with a pro-forma profit of £259.6 million in 1990.

AWA, which was created at the end of 1990 through the merger of Wiggins Teape Appleton and Arjomari-Prioux, the French paper company, said that the benefits of the merger were coming in as scheduled, but that they would be greater than originally anticipated.

The merger benefits am-

ounted to £6 million last year, but the company expected to achieve further savings of £60 million from the merger rationalisation programme by 1993.

The forestry and pulp operations in Spain and Portugal "represented the principal area of shortfall in the group's results" because of falling pulp prices, the company said. The division turned in an operating loss of £9.4 million, against a profit of £5.7 million in 1990.

Operating profits in paper merchandising fell from £26.8 million to £17.9 million, while profits from paper manufacturing were up by just

over £4 million to £238.3 million, in part due to a good performance by the North American paper manufacturing businesses. Turnover for the whole group was down by four per cent to £2.49 billion.

Since the merger, AWA has made over 90 per cent of its operating profits outside Britain, causing a steep rise in advance corporation tax. The total tax charge has risen from 33 per cent of profits to 37 per cent, pushing net earnings per share down from 21.5p in 1990 to 18p.

The total dividend for the year remains at 8.35p, and includes a final payout of 5.05p.

Morland leaps on bid hint

Shares in Morland, a Thames Valley brewer, surged 97p to 470p after the company said that it was in discussions that could lead to its acquisition. Whitbread Investment has a 43.6 per cent stake in Morland, but its Whitbread parent is under pressure from the DTT to slim down its tied estate.

Morland, which last June acquired 101 pubs from Courage, said shareholders would be "kept informed of any relevant developments". City analysts said another regional brewer would be the most likely bidder.

Cole charged

Tony Cole, former chairman of Bestwood, a collapsed finance and property group, is to be tried at the Old Bailey on charges of false accounting, perjury and theft involving more than £1.1 million. He was given bail of £150,000 by City of London magistrates. Mr Cole was arrested after a Serious Fraud Office investigation into Bestwood, which went into receivership in April 1990.

Cattle's rises

Cattle's Holdings, a financial services group, recorded its eleventh successive year of increased profits in 1991. Pre-tax profits grew by 19 per cent to £9.8 million. The group is holding its dividend for the year at 3.8p and making a special payout of 0.5p from the flotation of Rosebys, a curtain retailer.

Steelcity defiant

Steelcity, which is fighting a £606 million bid from Redland, pointed out that the offer was worth less than 11 times' 1990 earnings. Richard Miles, chief executive, said Redland was "trying to take the company away at the trough of the recession". The bid closes on Thursday.

US acquisition

Porter Chadburn is buying Lancer Label, a manufacturer of self-adhesive labels based in Omaha, Nebraska. The cash consideration is \$25.8 million (£14.9 million), of which \$16.4 million is payable on completion.

BASF sheds more jobs to fight slump

BY OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

BASF, the German chemical giant, is shedding 9,500 jobs this year — more than 7 per cent of its total workforce, in response to the continued slump in the world's chemical industry.

The job cuts are twice as high as they were last year, and come amid a continued decline in profits, estimated to have fallen by as much as 40 per cent in the first quarter of 1992. The world chemical industry has been suffering from a sharp downturn in the business cycle since 1989, but last year's hopes of a recovery came to nothing, and there is no sign of a recovery even now.

The company, one of the world's top three chemical groups, announced the job losses with some degree of understatement, pointing out that "the BASF group will employ not more than 120,000 employees at the end of 1992". The number of employees at the end of last year was 129,434. A statement said: "BASF is exploiting all opportunities for optimisation and reduction of costs, including staff costs."

Jürgen Strube, chairman of

the management board, said the restructuring process in the chemical industry will eventually lead to greater specialisation of chemical firms, whereby "a few corporations with worldwide activities will hold a strong position in large product lines. Alongside these there will be smaller, specialised companies operating within niche markets."

At a news conference in Ludwigshafen, where BASF is based, Dr Strube said that the developments in the first two months (of 1992) have confirmed our estimates that 1992 is not going to be a year of rapid upswing and general economic revival.

He added that "there is little likelihood of an alleviation of the keen competitive pressure in our traditional markets and a distinct recovery of selling prices in the first half of the year".

The situation is worsened by the slowdown in the German economy, and the continued depression of the American chemicals market, which Dr Strube does not expect to pick up until the second half of the year.

Schroders produces record result

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SCHROEDERS, the City merchant bank, made record net profits of £52.1 million in 1991 as strong gains in its investment management division and a return to profit in America helped to offset a slump in corporate finance business.

The profits, after transfer to inner reserves, were 65 per cent higher than in the previous year. The bank is increasing its final dividend to 13p, making 18p for the year, up 28 per cent.

George Mallinckrodt, the chairman, said that Schroders had a more balanced year and that its three main businesses — asset management, investment banking

and treasury — had contributed to profits. Schroders' profits were depressed in 1990 after it was forced to provide £7 million against swap transactions with local authorities and lost £4 million through Wertheim Schroder, its American subsidiary, due to losses in arbitrage trading. Principal trading has now been scaled down at Wertheim, which is back in profit.

Despite the downturn in corporate finance business, Schroders still handled 105 corporate finance transactions worth a total of £17.9 billion during the year, down from 170 totalling £24.8

billion in 1990. These included NMB Bank's merger with Nationale Nederlanden in The Netherlands and Williams' offer for Yale & Valor. Schroders is advising HSBC Holdings on its imminent bid for Midland Bank.

Funds in the investment management arm rose £6.7 billion to a record £27.7 million due to the rise in world equity markets and a number of new clients. Treasury trading profited from the falling interest rates. Mr Mallinckrodt said Schroders is expanding its loan book to take advantage of higher lending margins.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

MANDERS (HOLDINGS)
Pre-tax: £8.04m (£6.8m)
EPS: 13p (14.31p)
Div: 5p, mkg 7p (7p)

STAG FURNITURE (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.04m (£1.17m)
EPS: 16.4p (6.1p)
Div: 4p, mkg 6.5p (5.5p)

FERRUM HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.64m (£2.57m)
EPS: 7.13p (8.16p)
Div: 1.4p, mkg 2.5p

Final results. Turnover dipped to £101.6m (£104.8m). Group is well placed to achieve growth.

Exceptional credit of £31,000. Turnover fell to £26.8m (£28.5m). Group's balance sheet continues to be strong, but trading conditions remain difficult.

Previous total dividend was 2.25p. Exceptional debit of £250,000 (nil). Net debt cut to £3.8m (£7.3m).

WORLD OF LEATHER
Pre-tax: £115,000
EPS: 0.9p (LPS: 10.5p)
Div: Nil (nil)

NESTOR-BNA (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.31m (£8.02m)
EPS: 5.81p (8.64p)
Div: 2p, mkg 3.15p

SELECT APPOINTMENTS
Pre-tax: Loss £508,000
LPS: 2.4p (EPS: 1.2p)
Div: Nil (nil)

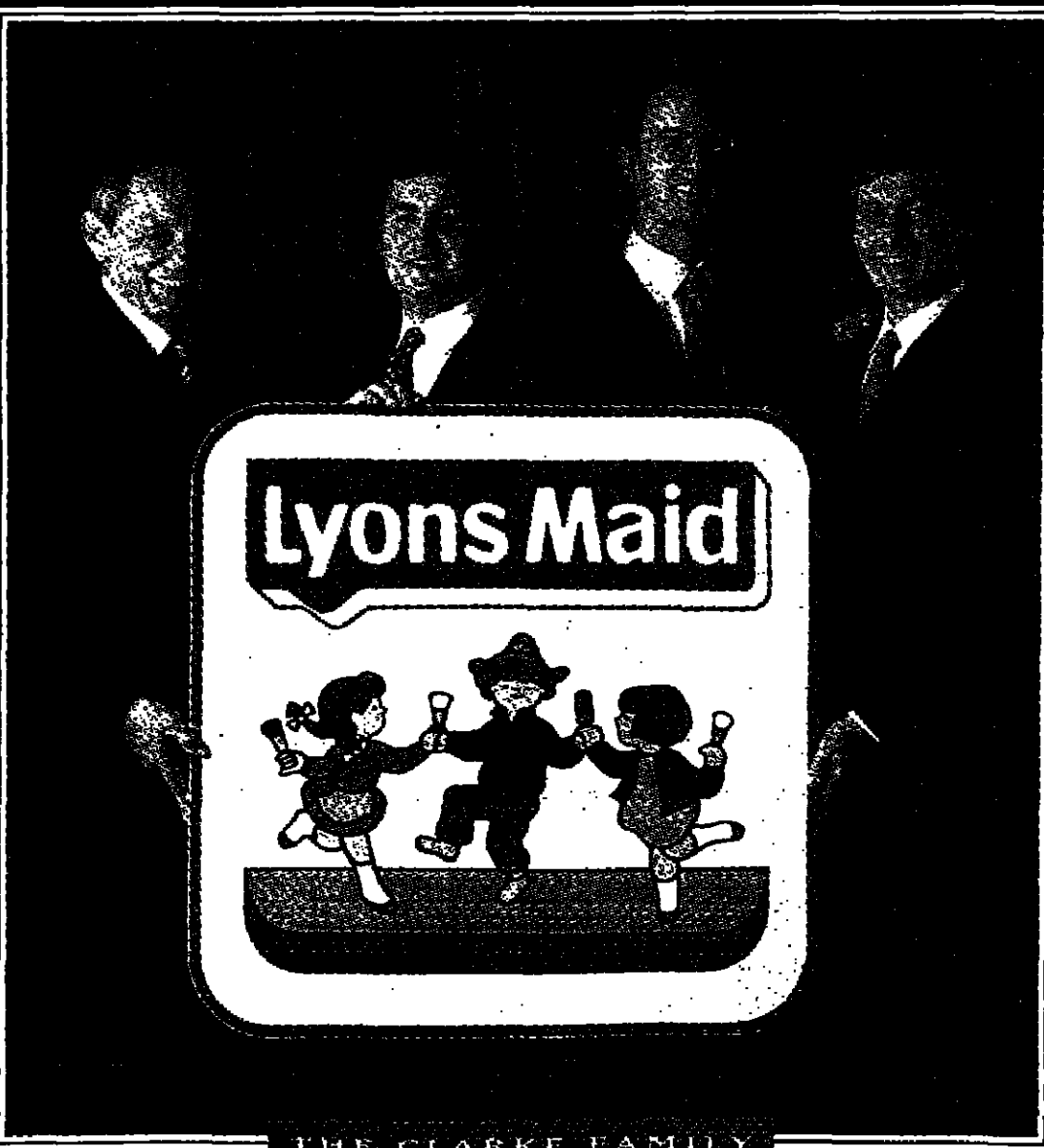
Final results. Last time's loss was £223,000. Turnover edged to £24.6m (£24.5m). Current year has made a solid start.

Previous total dividend was 3.15p. Exceptional debit of £840,000 (nil). Turnover fell to £100.5m (£104.4m).

Interim results. Last time's profit was £711,000. Extraordinary debit: £21.1m. Turnover fell to £10.1m (£31.3m).

"You don't just one day own Lyons Maid.
You do your best to live up to it."

— Henry Clarke



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C&W gets its wires crossed

There was a distinct air of disappointment and uncertainty in the City over the moves announced yesterday by Cable and Wireless. Such highly rated stocks cannot afford too many shadows over the glittering long-term future already built into the price. Investors have been convinced that C&W will build three of its most attractive businesses, Mercury, the Personal Communications Network interests and the global digital highway, so that they take up any slack in its splendid Hong Kong telephone operations post the handback to China in 1997.

C&W now appears to some analysts to be diluting the growth potential in PCN by the merger with US West's United consortium and trimming expansion plans for its premium business services. The closer relationship with US West appears to reduce the likelihood of links with AT&T, the American telecommunications giant, of which the market still retained high hopes. Lord Young's apparent willingness to consider other partners in the PCN project was also being read with misgivings.

Part of the disappointment that pulled C&W shares back was straightforward. The £50 million of provisions for restructuring will hit profits immediately. But it is not at all clear from the information disclosed how the provisions are broken down and to what specific activities they relate. The same lack of clarity surrounds the £175 million of saving that the company says will stem from the restructuring. Under the circumstances, the market was not especially willing to believe at this stage that the saving will make a positive impact on earnings in the next year. Analysts suggest that company sources were discouraging yesterday about suggestions that forecasts for next year should be upgraded accordingly. The latest developments at C&W came on the heels of management changes that are not perfectly understood by investors. Clearly, there is a substantial communications exercise to be mounted.

GRE gamble

GRE has, at last, bitten the bullet hard as Sid Hopkins, its chief executive, promised. As a direct result, its share price has already started bouncing back after the headlong fall over the past six months. The pain is not merely being taken in the dividend, which some rivals still regard as a totem, but which GRE finally decided to cut by two fifths. Along with General Accident, GRE has been prepared to lose a large slice of its cherished share of the British motor insurance market to regain credible premium rates. The number of risks covered fell 23 per cent last year and premium income by 15 per cent. More premium increases are on the way.

A more down-to-earth management is also jettisoning the heritage of following the flag, most recently in Australia, to concentrate on Britain and Europe, where it is established in Germany and Ireland but made a notoriously false start in Italy, and the Far East, where it has historic strength. The fate of North America, where GRE is profitable, is still to be decided. These tactics are, however, mainly dictated by the state of the business, which is most dire in its domestic core. Assuming GRE has provided enough on mortgage indemnity and that its expansion in household insurance comes off, trading should recover smartly. There is a long way to go. The immediate pay-off is in the solvency ratio, which could have been much worse than 41 per cent. The dividend remains in limbo-land but looks more sustainable, making the shares an interesting gamble on a yield of 7.3 per cent.

Wolfgang Münchau asks how proposed Conservative and Labour tax regimes in Britain compare with France and Germany

If you ask a continental European about his tax rate, the chances are he does not know. If you ask a Briton, the chances are that he not only knows, but also knows the precise impact, to the penny, that the Budget and the shadow budget will have on his weekly earnings.

This suggests that the greater gap exists not so much between the proposals of Norman Lamont and John Smith, but between both of them and the rest of Europe. A tax analysis by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the financial consultant, and *The Times*, which pitches Mr Lamont's and Mr Smith's tax proposals not only against each other, but against France and Germany, suggests that both Mr Smith's and Mr Lamont's tax regimes look out of place in certain respects in a wider European context.

Mr Smith's proposed taxes on income are relatively high by comparison, as one might expect, but their structure is also rather odd. Britain is by no means Europe's income tax haven, even under the Tories, as is sometimes suggested, and this is even less so for married couples with two children.

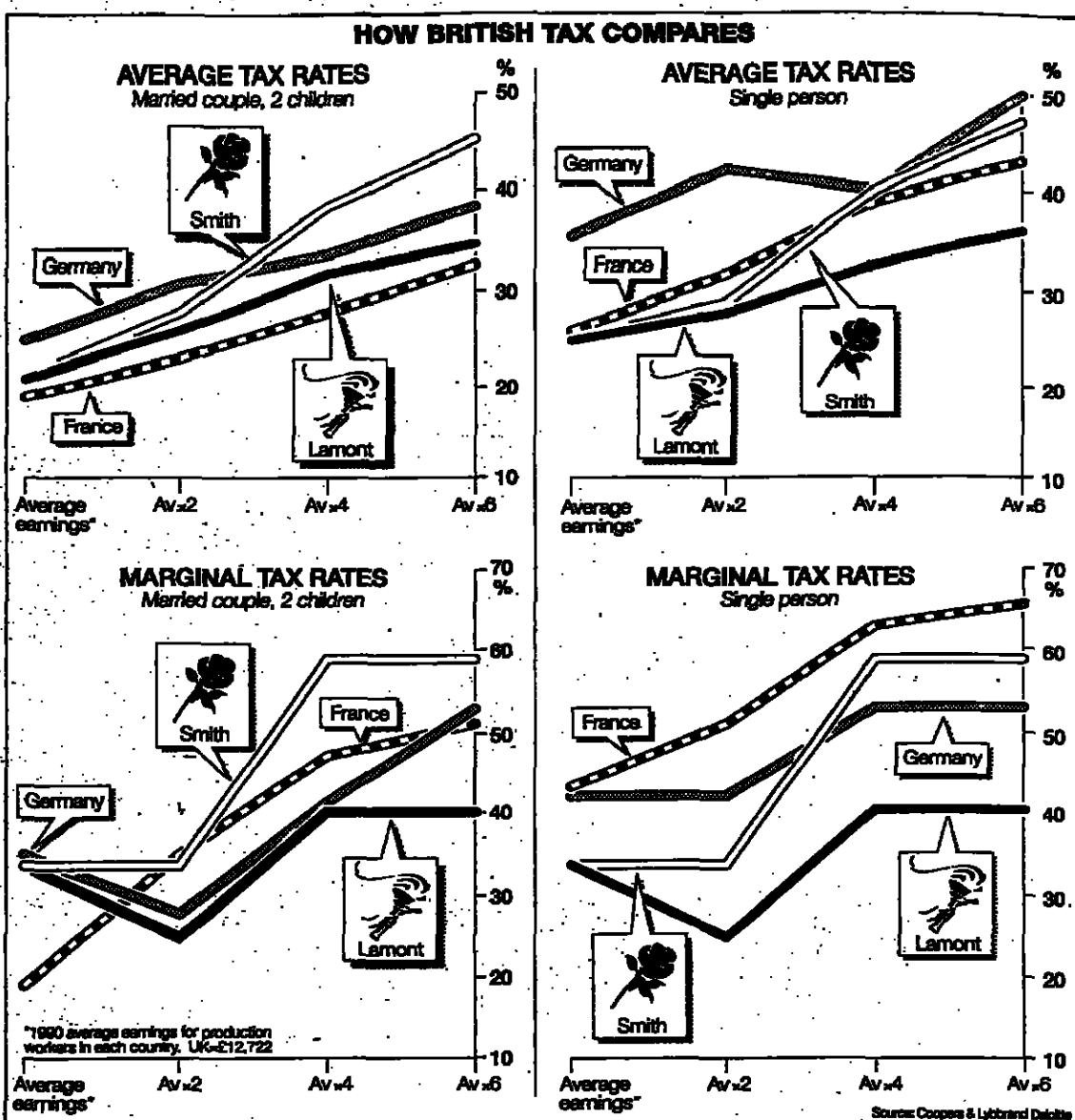
The award for low income taxes goes to France. Had Norman Lamont presented his Budget in France, complete with a lower tax band of 20 per cent and a higher band of 40 per cent, French taxpayers in every income group under investigation would have been worse off than they are now.

Under John Smith, the French would probably have taken to the streets. France's low-tax status is the more surprising, since it is the only country of the three with a socialist government.

Taking direct, indirect and business taxes together, Britain still appears the low-tax country. Tax has taken about 40 per cent of output in Britain in recent years, compared with about 45 per cent in France and Germany. Labour would add at least a point to Britain's tax rate.

For taxes on income, the comparison is different. The emergence of France as Europe's low income tax economy is perhaps the most striking result of our analysis. Germany is a high-tax economy throughout. How would Mr Smith's tax regime fare in comparison with Germany and France?

As the charts show, Mr Smith's proposed taxes appear high, at least for our married couple with two children. At present, German taxes are higher than British taxes all the way. Under Labour, British average taxes are lower than in Germany for



the low-paid but would be higher for higher earners. At the top end, six times the average income, or about £76,000, Labour's tax rates have raced ahead of all the others, after the steepest tax progression of all in the middle-to-high income levels. While France, Germany and Tory Britain have different tax levels, the progression moves in parallel. Mr Smith's proposals disturb an otherwise even picture, across all our charts.

A word of caution. The Labour party has rightly pointed out that their tax proposals would look more favourable if we had chosen a married couple on two incomes. Our assumptions are based on a single income because this allows for easier comparisons. For our calculations of tax and insurance deductions we have started with average earnings in the production sector in each country, and worked upwards. Like any international comparison, this is not without flaws, but it does show how Europeans fare against each other relative to their respective countries' average earnings.

A quite different picture emerges if one chooses a single person, rather than a married couple with two

children. A single person is best off by far in Britain under Mr Lamont, which is out of line with the rest of Europe. Here, Mr Smith is much closer to the rest of Europe, but even then a single person is better off in Britain than Germany at any income in our analysis.

There is, however, a stark difference between single people and married couples with children. Germany allows a couple with only a single earner to split their income, so both are liable to a much lower tax than a single person on the same income would have been. It is a *Hausfrau*-friendly tax regime that encourages women to stay at home.

France goes even further, allowing couples with children to split their income in three parts under a complicated formula, thereby depressing effective tax rates even further. Tax benefits for British families are negligible by comparison.

The figures quoted so far relate to the average tax rate, defined here as the proportion of total income lost in tax and national insurance. If one compares marginal tax rates (the rate at which an additional

pound of earned income is taxed), a different picture emerges. Here there is no clear winner. Britain under Mr Lamont has the lowest marginal rates, as one might expect, in respect of very high earnings (six times the average). This is also true in the middle ground of twice average earnings. Mr Lamont and Germany are neck and neck in the intermediate range. But France wins again in respect of low average incomes.

In our survey we are looking at comparable, not identical, income levels. Average gross income levels vary considerably between the three countries. A rule of thumb is that the higher the rate of tax, the higher the gross level of income. In 1990, France, with the lowest tax, has the lowest average income, £10,360, for an average production worker (£12,722 in Britain and £15,832 in Germany). In net terms, the differing tax levels reduce these differentials. This might suggest that if British taxes were to go up, workers would try to compensate by pressing for higher wages. Anecdotal evidence suggests such a pattern. German pay demands rose after the government took emergency tax

measures to finance unification. George Yeandle, tax partner at Coopers & Lybrand, said: "The worry is that companies look at marginal rates of tax. International companies looking at the prospect of a marginal tax of 59 per cent might look for another place to invest." Mr Yeandle's fears reflect the view that low taxes play a key role in attracting foreign investors into Britain.

He cautioned, however, that the family-friendly French and German tax systems could make up for much of Britain's low marginal tax rates. He said that "the family impact means that the continentals are storming back towards us".

Another advantage which the French and German employees enjoy is a vastly more beneficial social security system. In our calculation, we lumped national insurance and tax together. This is not necessarily a fair comparison. In France and Germany, unlike in Britain, unemployment benefits and pensions are directly related to the amount of insurance paid into the system. So German and French employees are getting more out of higher "taxes" than their British counterparts. In that respect, even under Mr Lamont, deductions from income are higher than the figures would suggest if one were to include private and voluntary pension contributions. This would further undermine the notion of Britain as a European tax haven, except for high earners and, of course, single people.

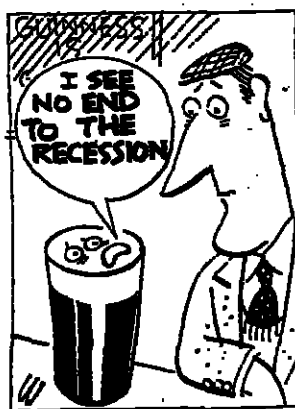
France is the odd one out in many respects. It has lower taxes on income — though indirect taxes are higher — and the lowest entry level of tax and insurance, a regime that is especially helpful to the low paid. Britain under Mr Lamont and Germany have one thing in common, a middle income poverty trap, caused by the ceiling of national insurance contributions. If one believes in the incentive effect of taxation, this would suggest that the middle class has a greater incentive to earn more than the working class. Mr Smith and the French have in common that they do not support this aspect of taxation.

The different tax regimes in Europe mean that tax harmonisation, the next big battle in European integration, is going to be much more difficult than anything we witnessed at Maastricht last year. A committee led by Onno Ruding, the former Dutch finance minister, had a go at this vexed subject this week, by proposing to harmonise corporation tax in the EC with a standard rate of about 40 per cent. Harmonising corporation tax promises to be controversial, but it will not be anywhere near as contentious as eventual attempts to harmonise income taxes. The real difference between France and Britain is not merely the rate of tax, but the philosophy behind taxation. Compared with this, the difference between Mr Lamont and Mr Smith is small.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Politics of peace

IN a week when the main political parties entered one of the toughest election battles for years, the descendants of two great political enemies finally agreed to put an end to their differences. The olive branch was successfully offered by Drake Beam Morin, the outplacement consultant that resides in Arlington Street, St James's, once the home of Sir Robert Walpole. Britain's first prime minister. To commemorate DBM's fifth year at that address, and the 247th anniversary of Walpole's death, Peter Trigg, DBM's managing director, invited pony-tailed, father-of-seven Lord Walpole and his second wife Laurel, to lunch at the property, alongside William Wadham Wyndham, a direct descendant of the original Sir William Wyndham, Walpole's greatest political rival. After a spell as a Tory cabinet minister, and a brief period of imprisonment after the failure of the Jacobite movement, Wyndham was leader of the opposition and frequently defended his high church and Tory principles against Walpole. His political activity culminated in an abortive attempt to overthrow Walpole in 1723. This week's meeting of the two descendants was their first, and for the present Lord Walpole it was the first time he had set foot in his ancestor's house. On this count, however, Wyndham — a lawyer — was one step ahead. He had been to the Arlington Street address in 1986, for professional advice when he was made redundant by Exxon, the oil company.



Rocket returns

IAN "Rocket" Stephenson, head of UK equities at Salomon Brothers until his abrupt resignation last month, will resurface again on Monday, at Smith New Court. Stephenson, a former partner of Wood Mackenzie and one of the most popular and respected brokers in the business, is joining the firm as a senior equity salesman. "There is no fancy title, he will simply be doing what he enjoys most — talking to clients," says Paul Roy, managing director of SNC. Stephenson, who resisted an attempt by Salomon Brothers to persuade him to reconsider his resignation, received job offers from several top firms. At SNC he will also be involved with derivatives, working alongside Lenny Barshak, another ex-Salomon employee, recruited from the firm's New York office a month ago. "It is purely coincidental, they know of each other but they haven't met yet," says Roy, aged 44, adding that he is delighted to be recruiting someone older than himself.

Although age might not be on his side, Rocket, aged 45, has been known to break dance in skin-tight red jeans at parties. "That is definitely something I will not be doing," admits Roy, currently wearing a cumbersome surgical collar after a skiing accident.

Life of Brian

WHEN director Michael Anderson made his acclaimed 1955 film *The Dam Busters*, it was Vickers that provided footage of Barnes Wallis's bouncing bomb. The man who organised it was Brian Wexham, who joined Vickers in 1944 and retired as group photographic manager today, aged 62, after 47 years with the company. Wexham's first boss filmed the bouncing bomb, while Wexham had filmed trials for the real thing with Wallis in temperatures of minus 70 degrees centigrade. His assignments since then read like a record of Britain's past engineering glories: the first DC10s, the Vickers Viscount, the Vickers Varsity, the first nuclear submarine, the first Polaris, and the first hovercraft. He could also have been a part of the royal paparazzi, taking photographs of monarchs as they launched ships like HMS *Invincible*, the last to be built by Vickers and which served in the Falklands conflict. In retirement, Wexham says he wants to do more work for the National Trust — if he can find the time. For Vickers, he admits that it will not be replacing Wexham. It plans to continue to summon his services for freelance assignments instead.

Carol Leonard

BUSINESS LETTERS

London campaign for EC bank

From the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Corporation of London.

Sir, Your report "Germany insists on having EC Bank" (March 17) clearly expresses the growing concern that the location chosen for the proposed European Central Bank is likely to be made on political grounds with little regard to any operational need.

There are many who feel this represents a disturbing development and are questioning whether a decision based on political considerations alone would be in Europe's best interests. We have always seen politically motivated amendments with two EC Directives (Investment Services and Capital Adequacy) which, if agreed, would harm Europe's position in the global market place generally and, in particular, would undermine the benefits that London brings to the EC as a whole.

Whilst the exact role of the ECB has yet to be agreed, it is quite clear that whatever

form it takes, it will need to operate in London to operate effectively. In one case, because of its direct involvement in the markets, it will need the depth and liquidity that London provides.

Alternatively, if vested with only an oversight role, with little direct market involvement, it will need to be in London to gain a deep intelligence of economic and monetary trends which can best come from close operational contact with the international practitioners who are mostly found in the "Square Mile".

The case for London will no doubt be developed throughout Britain's presidency of the EC and, as evidence of its commitment to ensure the continued success of the City with all the benefits this brings to a united Europe, the Corporation of London is already planning to undertake a campaign in support of this.

Yours faithfully
MICHAEL CASSIDY,
Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee,
Corporation of London,
Guildhall, EC2.

Stimulating pharmaceutical giants

From Hazel Bardsley.

Sir, My comment to Mr Rousell's letter (Business Letters, March 18) is as follows: he would do well to consider the benefits derived by the general public from a harmonious interdependence between pharmaceutical giants, generic companies and the pharmacy profession.

Generic companies are not "pirate" companies and their business activities stimulate innovative companies such as Glaxo to re-invest in research

and development. Moreover, their formulation and manufacture of life-saving drugs reduce the NHS drugs bill. Finally, pharmacists are responsible for the safe supply of medicines to the public, and should we damage this protective layer in our health care services, we will inevitably see more drug adverse reactions and deaths in our society.

Yours faithfully,
HAZEL BARDSLEY,
Industrial Pharmacist,
Cambridge.

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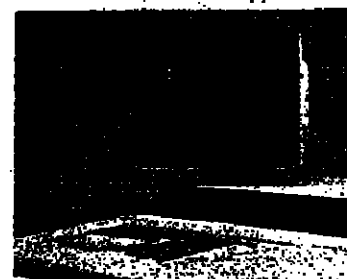
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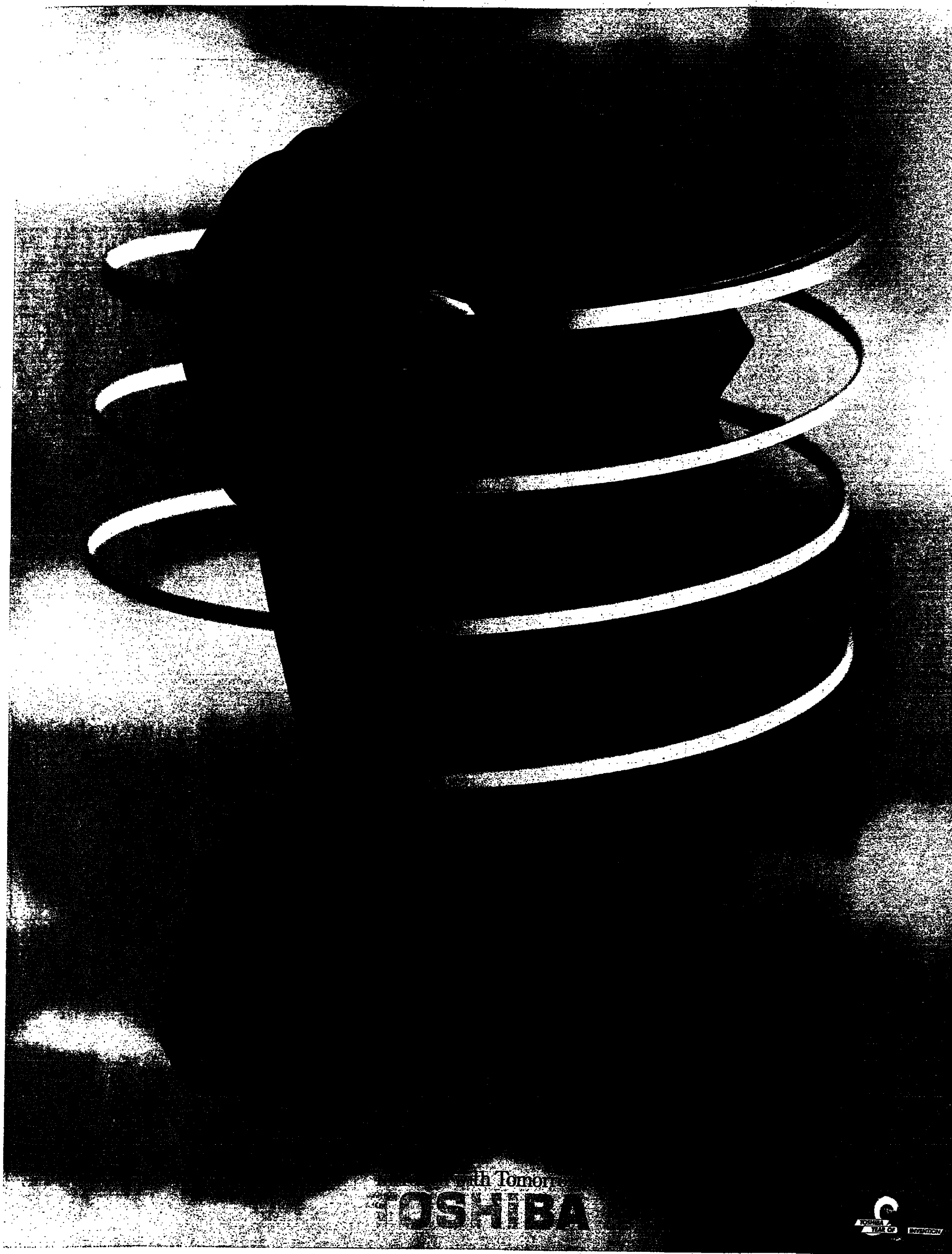
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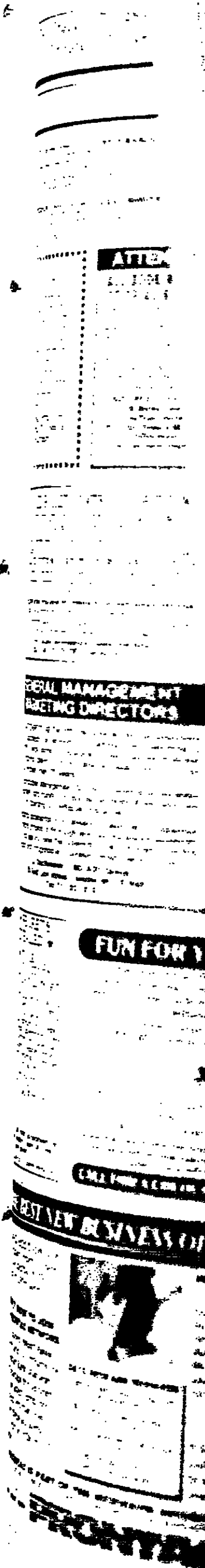
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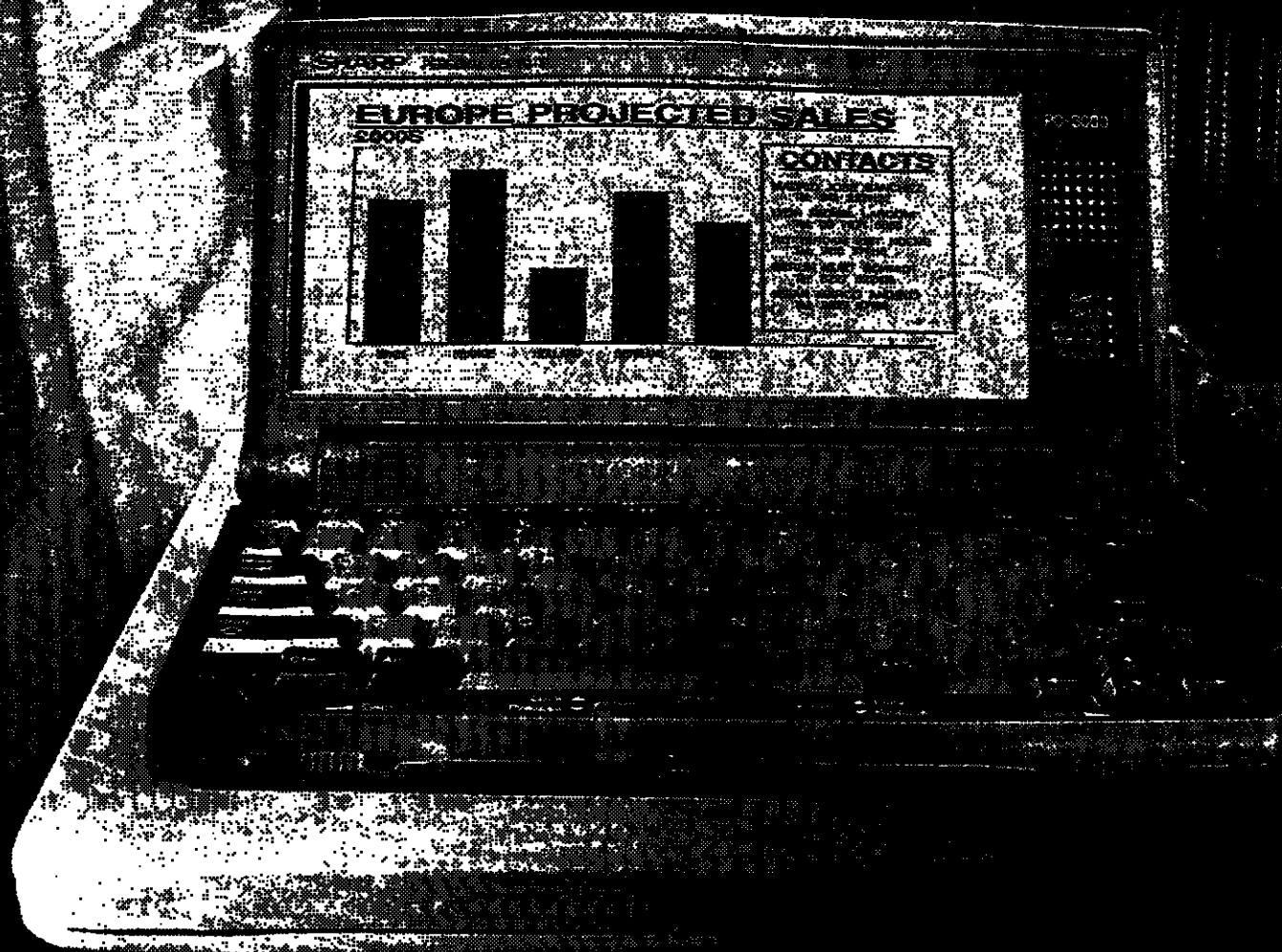


THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 20 1992

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INFOTECH TIMES

Who'll crack the safety code?

Computer source codes are valuable commercial secrets — but where do they leave the public in an emergency? Nick Nuttall reports

Academics are becoming increasingly concerned over the secrecy surrounding computer source codes used to defend or improve public safety.

The codes are at the heart of software programs that model, for example, how a bridge will react to winds or how a fire will spread. They also underpin the modelling of safety-critical tasks in fly-by-wire aircraft and shutdown systems on nuclear power stations such as Sizewell B. Developing the codes can cost millions, and so their secrecy is fiercely defended by the companies that provide them.

The concern centres on the difficulties of establishing whether a program carries flaws that might have been missed by the codes' creators. The question is: should the public have a right to know how a computer might react during, for example, a nuclear alert?

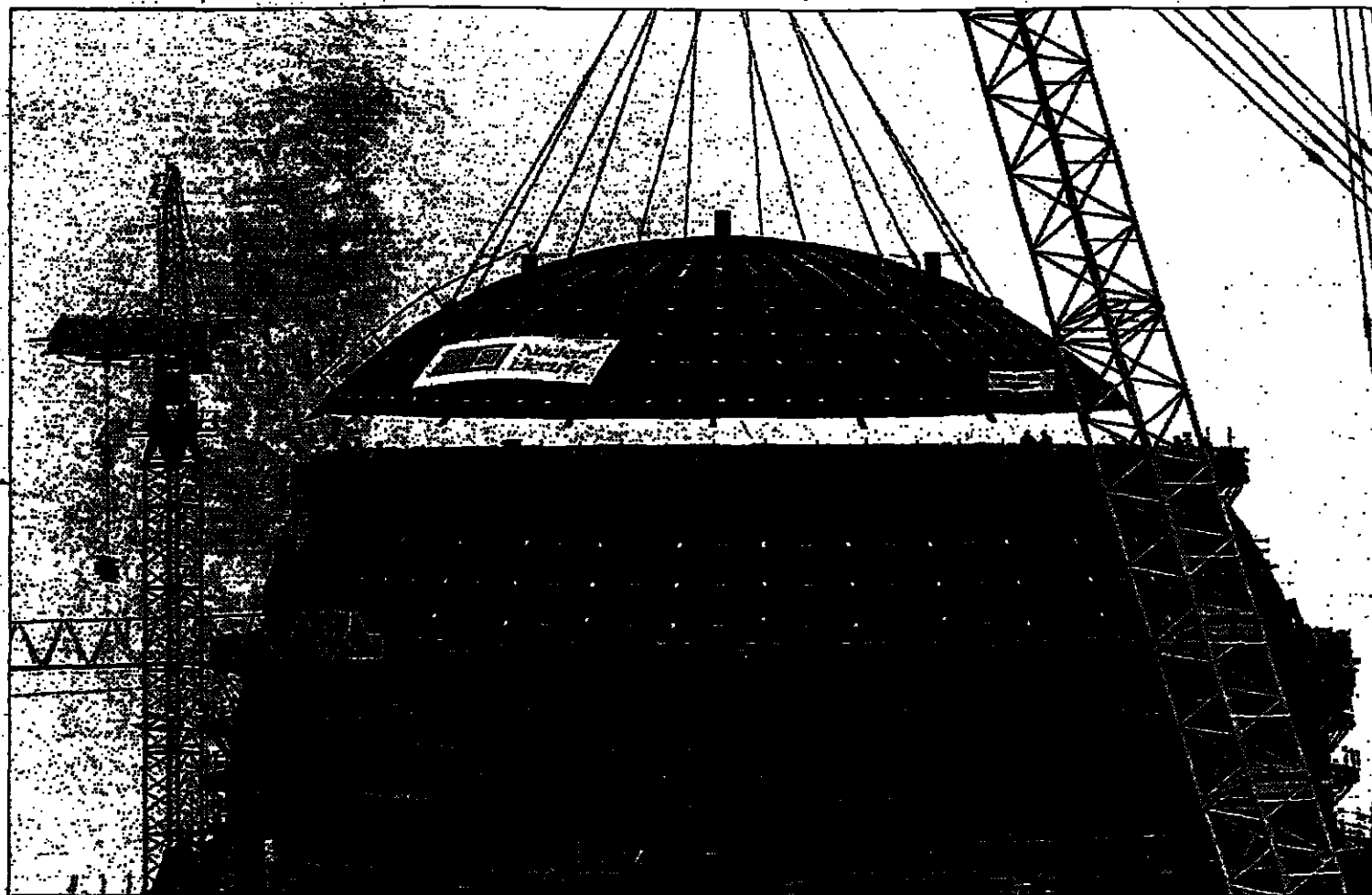
Computer prognostications can be used by fire safety engineers to gain relaxations of building regulations — but are they accurate in all situations? And how should users interpret the results when their underlying assumptions are a mystery?

Alan Beard, a theoretical physicist at Edinburgh University, believes the practice of keeping source codes a commercial secret or allowing users limited access to them for a fee could compromise public safety.

"It breaches a fundamental principle of science. Source codes should be open to public scrutiny in general and the scientific community in particular," Dr Beard told delegates at a recent seminar on the management of risk in engineering held in Liverpool earlier this month.

Dr Beard, who is based at the Unit of Fire Safety Engineering at the university, cites the case of a program called Jasmine, developed at the Fire Research Station in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, which attempts to model how smoke might flow through a building.

Tests indicated that results from the program in rooms with rough



Sizewell gains a roof — and a primary shutdown system that is entirely computer controlled. But must the source codes be secret?

walls might be questionable. The flaw was tracked down to the sub-code owned by a software company, Cham of south-west London.

"Hitherto the source code has not been made available to the public for commercial reasons... this example came to light in a random manner and may well not have come to light at all," Dr Beard says.

A more advanced version of the program is now available as a commercial modelling package. "The source code here is, as far as I am aware, totally secret to those people who made it," Dr Beard says.

Coleen King, company secretary at Cham, said: "Some of the source code is available and some is not. There is enough... although may be not as much as some academics would like."

Another prototype fire programme, Fast17, which was developed at the Center for Fire Research in America, had a source code which took over a year before it became publicly available, whereupon it was found to be capable of making

unrealistic predictions. In fires in which three rooms were involved the code wrongly calculated the amount of oxygen getting to the fire, which in real life would control its growth rate. When the material in a wall was different to that on the floor, smoke temperatures were "far too high".

Dr Beard's concerns are echoed by Stewart Anderson, lecturer in computer science at Edinburgh. He believes some kind of independent or government-backed licensing body should have access to codes used in important, commercially available, modelling software and safety-critical applications.

These doubts arise as Britain's first computer-controlled reactor protection system is installed at Sizewell B, the pressurised water reactor being built in Suffolk. Doubts have been raised by researchers at City University in London and senior figures at the British Computer Society over

whether the software, made by Westinghouse of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, can be proved to be sound.

Two years ago a team at Nuclear Electric, the station's operators, concluded that it would be difficult to prove the system's reliability to the standard laid down by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The situation contrasts sharply with a case in Darlington, Ontario, where the regulator ordered the generation company, Ontario Hydro, to hand over the source codes for a nuclear station to independent scientific assessors at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The assessors discovered "some serious and not serious" errors.

The case also underscores concerns over the increasing complexity of safety-critical software. The Canadian code was only 10,000 lines long but took 35 person years and many millions of dollars to study. Sizewell's is about 100,000 lines.

Phil Bennett, chairman of the Institution of Electrical Engineers' safety-critical systems committee,

understands why companies keep source codes secret: "People forget that a source code is a proprietary product. How many suppliers of motor-car engines publicly display all their technical drawings?"

IFT was a company I would be very concerned about releasing information to academics. Academics are like a leaking sewer."

Dr Bennett believes that some of the comments about safety-critical software and Sizewell B in particular are "outrageous". He disputes that unless a code can be proved flawless it should be shelved: "If you carry that analogy forward you had better get used to living in caves. All engineers have to make value judgments."

He believes the best solution is to promote civil standards by better practice among writers and by restricting software engineers to levels of expertise. Such proposals will be voted on next month by the 41 member nations of the International Electrotechnical Commission, part of the United Nations.

No mark of distinction

IBM has decided to remove its logo from a new range of computers

IBM, the multinational computer company that prides itself on having the finest sales and service policy in the industry, is to go for anonymity.

The company has broken with a tradition that has endured since its foundation in 1914 and is to remove its distinctive striped logo from a new range of low-cost personal computers in Europe.

In doing so the company has specifically warned customers not to expect the service they get with IBM branded products.

Last week Michael Reiter, an IBM spokesman, said at the company's New York headquarters that purchasers of the new machine will get a quality product but not the

customary IBM service and support. IBM pioneered the idea that selling and servicing are inseparable parts of marketing. The volte-face in strategy may at least kill off one of the computer industry's oldest sayings: "Nobody ever got sacked for buying IBM."

This strategy will prevent computer customers from even knowing they are buying IBM unless they enquire.

The new computers will be sold only in Europe, where the company has been considering how to compete with a host of companies selling cheap personal computers, particularly those avoiding the middle man and selling direct to the customer through mail order catalogues or advertisements.

Direct selling has boomed in the past two years and accounted for more than a third of personal computer sales in the last quarter of 1991, says the market research firm Romtec. Elonex is the UK brand leader in direct selling with 12 per cent of the market. Sales of directly sold personal com-

puters have eaten into the market share of companies such as IBM and Compaq.

When IBM introduced its first personal computer in 1981 the company had doubts about appointing authorised dealers to sell the kit. Traditionalists suggested that placing the sale of an IBM machine in the hands of a non-IBM sales force would lead to a reduction in the service ethic, which the company regarded as central to its corporate culture.

Now, far from worrying that IBM's good name will be tarnished by being associated with third-party dealers, the company is apparently to ensure that the name cannot be tarnished at all by removing it from the front of the machine. However, IBM already has a range of cheap machines, the PS/1, which carry the logo and are sold through retail chains such as Dixons. Unfortunately, the machines, even with the IBM badge, have been unsuccessful against their cheap com-

petitors. IBM's more powerful PS/2 machines are PCs aimed more at the business market and are considerably more expensive than the clone manufacturer's systems. IBM justifies the premium is believed because of its reputation for quality and service.

Despite the New York announcement, IBM UK says it has no knowledge at present of plans to remove the IBM badge or to downgrade the level of service.

Even without the distinctive IBM logo the new computers may still give a jolt to what is probably the most competitive market in computing. The no-name machines should appear by the end of the year.

SEAN HALLAHAN

By Christmas a videophone should be on sale at less than £500

Just calling to see you

A British-made videophone costing less than £500 should be in the shops for Christmas, say the suppliers, BT and Amstrad, with the hope that if it starts to take off prices could soon fall to £200.

BT demonstrated the videophone to the public for the first time last week at the Ideal Home Plus exhibition at Earl's Court, London, to the irritation of Amstrad, which said it would sell a videophone last year but has not yet allowed anybody to see it in operation.

Although the rival videophones look different and may have slightly different features, they are based on the same hardware, developed by GEC Marconi Defence Systems.

Remarkably, what is probably the first picturephone in the world to be offered at a price consumers might just afford has been made possible by the adaptation of notoriously costly military communications technology for civilian uses.

The videophone has only a 3in colour screen similar to the liquid crystal screens on miniature television sets and the picture changes more slowly — ten frames a second compared with the 25 frames a second of television. Fast movement can therefore be blurred, but this is unlikely to be a problem with the usual head and shoulders pictures expected to make up most videophone traffic.

The voice channel has a built-in delay so that the picture moves in synchronism with the sound.

Unlike for more advanced and costlier models, no special telephone line is needed. The unit plugs into a standard BT socket to send pictures to other videophones and the call charges will be the same as for ordinary telephones. Callers will, of course, also be able to ring ordinary telephones.

Until recently, the market assumed that the technical problems of compressing a moving image so that it could travel down an ordinary telephone line would restrict videophones to the new and more expensive digital network now being installed,



Face to face: BT demonstrates its videophone at the Ideal Home Plus exhibition.

called the integrated digital services network (ISDN). The new telephone, however, transmits only those bits of the picture that are moving, enabling the image to be squeezed down an ordinary telephone line. But will it sell?

"We believe it will be a family purchase, with parents and children each buying one to keep in contact now that families live so far apart," says Nick Hewer, Amstrad's spokesman. "Organisations for the deaf are interested as it can send sign language, while businesses will want them for presentations."

However, it does take two to videophone and there is no point in buying one if the people you want to call do not also have one. The suppliers hope that videophone growth will be like the fax market in the early days, when businesses bought faxes in pairs, one for each end of the line, until they could almost assume that all business people had access to a fax.

The next problem is whether a standards war will break out, similar to the expensive and confusing battle for the video recorder market.

Because technical experts assumed that only digital telephone lines would be able to carry videophone calls, the world-wide standards for video are all digital, and various companies, including BT, are introducing telephones for that market.

However, these telephones are expensive. BT's will cost at least £2,000 and consumers will have to have a digital line installed.

Various American companies including AT&T and Compression Labs are also introducing analogue videophones, none of them compatible with one another. The danger is that every country will become locked into the first videophone standard that becomes widely available, and the world will be

divided into areas that can speak to but not see one another.

In an effort to avert this, BT and Marconi are investigating ways of making the new British telephones and the international standard for digital lines compatible.

BT would like its telephone to become the world standard for low-cost consumer videophones. In fact, analogue could end up being the preferred technology, partly because the new videophones contain many chips that are dropping in price because of advances in technology.

Dr Jonathan Drizin, of the market analyst Dataquest, says the new videophone contains many electronic components that are becoming rapidly cheaper, such as real-time image processors.

This will mean that the £500 price will come down quickly if volume production starts.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

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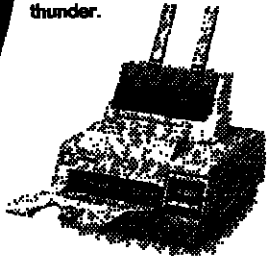
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Neighbours in the East demand a broader view

The Maastricht summit failed to decide the EC's size or how it should work. George Brock addresses the begged questions

In the shadow of the European Community's dark and massive Berlaymont building in Brussels sits an unusual souvenir shop. Every item from jerseys to jigsaws is adorned by the ring of 12 gold stars the EC has adopted as its badge. One of the postcards on sale smugly explains that the number of stars in the ring will not be increased if the number of the Community's states rises above 12. The design, it says, already symbolises "perfection and plenitude".

The kind of plenitude to which the people of western Europe have grown accustomed can be glimpsed a few yards further up the hill outside the branch of a Belgian bank. In the lunch hour, French, Irish, Danish or Portuguese Euro-cards press buttons on the cash machine and whisk money electronically out of accounts held anywhere from Athens to Aberdeen. Above the queue flashes a red neon sign displaying a countdown in months, weeks, hours and minutes to the end of 1992 and the deadline for the achievement of a barrier-free single market.

One chilly day this January, well-wrapped Euro-people stood in line beside a weatherbeaten woman with two small children who sat begging at the foot of the wall. She was, she said warily, from Yugoslavia, but would reveal no more. That tableau of European wealth side by side with poverty is the Community in 1992, and captures its future more vividly than either the grand drama of the Maastricht summit last December or the coming hullabaloo over the end of the 1992 programme.

For the first 35 years of its successful life, the EC has been able to proceed at its own uneven pace, rebuilding a continent shattered by war, sheltering behind America's protection.

But the Community's new agenda will be dictated by events beyond its eastern border, in east and

central Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The EC has spent the past two years trying to adjust to the implosion of communism and the collapse of many assumptions on which postwar Europe was built. The proliferating nations in the East now want Western Europe's peace and plenitude and are queuing for EC membership.

East Europeans would not reconcile themselves to a forcibly divided Europe. Hugh Seton-Watson, the historian, prophetically wrote just before his death in 1984 — and before Mikhail Gorbachev had even ascended to the leadership of the Soviet communist party, let alone set about dissolving Mos-

Support for a United States of Europe was never widespread and has waned

cow's empire. He protested at the EC's appropriating the idea of Europe. "The truth is," he wrote, "that nowhere in the world is there so widespread a belief in the reality, and the importance, of a European cultural community, as in the countries lying between the EC territory and the Soviet Union."

The Community was founded to nurture the fragile democracies of postwar Europe by nourishing their economies. There would be nothing more natural or right than for Western Europe's comfortable club to rededicate itself to the same task on behalf of the East. The sordid reality, however, is that many of the West's politicians find the other Europe an ill-timed disruption. As the 1980s came to an

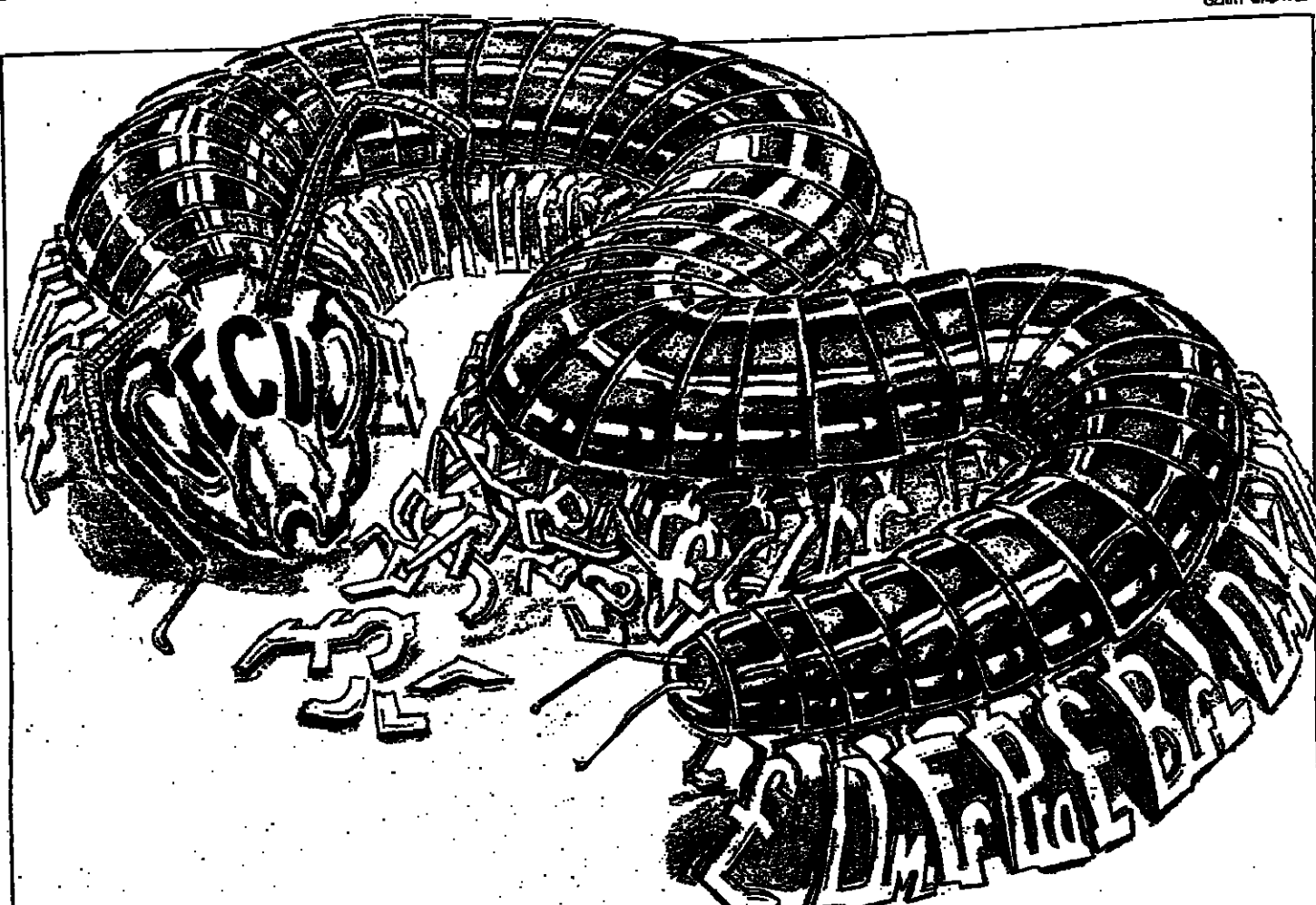
end and the world turned upside down, the EC was preoccupied with an ambitious internal programme of economic integration and fondly wondering how much political unification should accompany the 1992 programme.

Now, however, no decision the 12 governments make can be disentangled from the wider future of Europe, which can be defined as anything between 30 and 50 states, depending on your views of history, culture and geography. The Treaty of Rome allows any "European" state to apply to the Community, but nowhere does it define the term. The EC's external affairs commissioner visits Kazakhstan to hear that that brand-new republic would like to become a member.

The Maastricht treaty hardly helps to answer the looming questions of the future scope of the EC and how it will work. Its changes, due to come into force next January after ratification by 12 national parliaments and the European parliament in Strasbourg, will be profound. Most important of all, the document sets a deadline for a single currency no later than 1999.

The treaty is a hangover, however, from debates that raged the EC before the Berlin Wall fell. The long EC tradition of ambiguity was perfectly summed up in the ungainly but politically useful opt-out provision that exempts Britain from the Social Charter.

Urged for four decades to unite, the peoples of the EC bind their economies ever closer, but regularly refuse to weld their states into a federation. Wide extensions of the Community's competence, to visas, industrial policy, infrastructure and education, the beefing-up of the European Parliament's powers and the unprecedented mention of future defence policy in the treaty text can be presented as a big step towards European union. The treaty going before the 12 national parliaments for ratification uses the title "European Union" for the first time.



The closer you peer at the Maastricht text, however, the more the questions begged seem to outnumber the ones answered. Jean Monnet, the Community's intellectual father and secular saint, said integration depended on an institutional framework and deadlines. Maastricht, however, fixed only one date for a single currency by 1999 at the latest.

Entry qualifications bear the imprint of the German Bundesbank and are stiff. Only France, Denmark and Luxembourg now pass all the tests. Greece, Ireland, Spain and Portugal, the countries with the weakest economies, will almost certainly not qualify, although Spain at least is making every effort to do so. Italy may well fail. The current Italian election campaign is hearing the first rumbles of discontent as Italians, who are fervent, if not very effective federalists, wake up to the implications of being pushed back into the second carriage of the European train. Most uncertain and important of all, the treaty gives no clue of exactly how far monetary union means joint economic policies.

The future of supranational institutions, Monnet's other means of integration, is even less clear. Years

of competition for power between Brussels and national capitals have left the EC with a hybrid system: part federal, part confederal, and part inter-governmental cooperation.

The Maastricht treaty lines up three policy "pillars", which are scheduled to stay separate at least until 1996: traditional EC machinery dealing with mostly economic subjects, and cooperation mechanisms for crime and foreign affairs. Nobody can agree where integration will end up. Support for a United States of Europe was never widespread and has waned in the face of the turbulence in the East.

The Maastricht talks revealed a paradox, however. Nation-states remain the most powerful pieces on the chessboard, but the forces pushing them into closer cooperation and integration grow stronger as the century comes to its end.

In the immediate future, the new treaty has to be ratified by the end of this year, and it is clear that Maastricht has awoken, not stilled, debate. Against a backdrop of opinion polls showing falling sympathy for the Community, German Euro-sceptics, who have rarely been prominent in the past, are taking aim at what they describe as outdated federalist fantasies, and members of the Bundestag are

trying to find ways of wriggling out of the irrevocable commitment to monetary union.

In France, leading pro-EC politicians are admitting that the ratification debate on Maastricht will be harder than they thought, partly because the President Mitterrand and his socialist government, while promoting the treaty, are politically weak. Only in Britain were the issues thrashed out before John Major, the prime minister, went to the summit.

Against this background, here are some predictions about the state of the EC in 2000:

- The first single currency zone will have just been formed by fewer than six states and be dominated by Germany.
- Governments in this eu zone will retain much freedom of fiscal manoeuvre, and this will embitter the arguments over how the currency is run. What will be left of national economic sovereignty will be more highly prized than ever.
- The EC will have 20 members, including Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. A similar number of disappointed candidates will wait outside.
- Trade protection walls will have fallen, but the largest section of the EC budget will still go to farmers.
- Radical EC policies on the environment, borders and immigration will be made by majority vote. Governments will be forced to cede national powers to Brussels by pressure of public opinion on green issues and pressures of invasion from the murmuring poor of the South and East.
- Foreign policy, despite endless argument, will be better coordinated, but still be the sum of the individual national parts. EC peace-keeping forces will be stationed in Moldavia and Macedonia, but defence will still be national.
- Information technology will be as powerful an agent in the creation of the single market as any EC law or closer social and intellectual integration. Most equipment will be American and Japanese.
- The EC will be markedly less homogeneous than now: groups of states will take on policies in different areas at different speeds in order to ease the entry of Europeans in the East. Consistent application of rules such as those promoting fair commercial competition will be harmed, at least temporarily.
- The Community will still be trying to answer General de Gaulle's question: "Among the French, the Germans and the Latins many cry 'Build Europe!' But which Europe?"

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The EC has many new suitors, says Tom Walker

Growing pains of the new Europe

Within the next five years, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Austria and Switzerland, all members of the European Free Trade Area (Efta), are likely to become full members of the European Community.

In budgetary terms, their entry should not be a problem. All are wealthy nations, and would be net contributors to the Community, providing balance for the poorer member states: Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece. Nor would these Nordic and Alpine nations upset the smooth running of the EC. Each could have a commissioner, share the six-month rotating presidency and hold a proportion of seats in the European parliament without bringing it to a halt.

After that, enlargement of the Community becomes a headache. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has said that expanding the Community will be a priority of the British presidency that begins in July. But he adds that he believes a Community of more than 18 would be "top-heavy and unmanageable".

There are, however, already nine countries actively seeking EC membership, and threatening to take the overall number to 21. Austria and Sweden have formally applied for membership, and applications are expected from Finland and Switzerland before the end of this year. Norway, despite a history of EC-scepticism, should follow.

Then there are the forgotten applicants: Turkey, which applied in 1987, Cyprus and Malta. Liechtenstein is another expected suitor. Put all these nations in the melting pot and the Community institutions would have to be radically redesigned.

Even this takes no account of Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which, having signed association agreements with the Community that gradually liberalise trade, are higher up the pecking order than either Bulgaria or Romania, also possible applicants.

There are also the Baltic states: Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, which are already featuring in designs for a latter-day Hanseatic league, and any republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States that manage to turn their economic fortunes around.

John Major, who speaks of a Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, has said that the Community should be thrown open to all European countries that want to join and are prepared to take on the responsibilities of membership.

Such a vision, appeals to traditional Conservatives because the larger the Community, the more unmanageable Brussels dirigisme becomes. A social charter can work among a coterie group of 12 member states, but can it among 24? At



Not keen: Jacques Delors

best, such a Community could develop into a vast free trade area, which is probably what Mrs Thatcher wanted from Europe.

It is understandable, then, that while anti-federalist governments tend to espouse what in Euro-jargon is called "widening", those member states that favour "deepening" steer clear of holding out promises to those looking in.

Even the addition of the five wealthy Efta nations heading the queue creates difficulties for France, for example, which wants a common foreign and security policy for the EC. An

influx of traditionally neutral states may throw into doubt such an idea.

A radical argument suggests that if a 24-nation Community is too unwieldy, then the nation-state model of Europe — in which Britain, France, Germany, Benelux, Northern Italy and Denmark would dominate from the centre — must give way to a Europe of the regions in which power would be diffused.

Scotland, for example, would have a devolved parliament and the power of a German *Land*, and representatives of such regions would have direct access to the decision-making centre in Brussels, with EC funds paid directly to them.

Article 198A of the political union treaty, signed in Maastricht, already provides for the creation of a "committee of the regions" that could become a sort of senate to the existing Strasbourg assembly.

For the moment, enlargement will come through the European Economic Area (EEA), agreed last October, which will link the EC with Efta. Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, who, as the guiding spirit of a deeper Europe, was never an enthusiast for enlargement, originally saw the EEA as a means of keeping Efta members out of the Community. It forms a block in which the seven Efta countries and the EC together enjoy the "four freedoms" of the single market: free movement of goods, services, capital and workers.

The fall of the Iron Curtain and the end of the Nordic model of the socialist welfare state has overtaken M Delors's game plan, however, and the EEA is now seen as little more than a waiting room for EC membership.

The only EEA country that may not choose membership is Iceland, which for reasons of geography is considering entering the North American Free Trade Area of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The race is on to implement EC directives for the single market which starts next year

A quarter of 1992 has passed, and the European Commission finds itself in the satisfying position of having agreed on 232 of the 282 measures it has proposed for the single market, due to come into effect at the end of the year. Even more encouragingly, the laggard Italy has now implemented 110 EC directives, putting it fifth in the directive league table.

The Portuguese, who took over the presidency in January, are hoping that they can push through agreements on 30 directives before the end of June. Britain, which takes over in July and is already warming up for its six-month turn at the EC tiller, hopes to reach agreement on the complete abandonment of ten proposed directives. One of these is the fifth company law directive, which is designed to harmonise the administration and structure of large EC companies.

Inevitably, much of this legislation has been left to the end of the programme because it is the most difficult on which to achieve consensus. Typical of these is the "brokers' passport", the investment services directive (ISD) that could have opened up opportunities for firms in the City of London to extend their business throughout the continent, which has been all but killed off.

The ISD has been whittled down by southern European nations to a shadow of its former self. A clash of protectionist and free-market cultures has proved its undoing, and it is hard to believe that the British will be able to push it through in any meaningful shape.

The difficulty about much internal market legislation is that it is far from memorable.

Laws for 318 million



The French-Italian border: consumers will soon be able to shop freely across frontiers and prices should drop

The Dutch presidency, for example, proudly claimed that it had pushed through 31 internal market directives during its six months in charge. But if one asked the average European — or even an EC journalist — which of these he or she remembers, the reply could well be a shrug of the shoulders.

Most people will remember the Dutch presidency for the Maastricht summit last December. Yet most of the lofty aspects of European union that were discussed there will not become reality for the best part of a decade, whereas the single market, the idea that gave the union process its momentum, is all but upon us.

Internal market councils tend to be shrouded in bizarre detail. At the last, held during the Dutch presidency in December, laws went through harmonising boiler efficiency (a derogation for Britain here), speed limiters, electromagnetic compatibility, and motorcycle type standards.

To laugh these off is unfair. For motorcycle manufacturers, harmonising type standards is important, as it means a machine can be brought to market more quickly. Instead of their having to get the parts

of a cycle technically approved in all 12 member states — a process that can take years — they will in future have one type approval that is sufficient for a cycle to be sold to any of the 318 million consumers in the EC.

Amid the technically arcane, a few directives of more general interest always slip through. Recent examples include the banning of baggage checks during journeys within the EC and the right to buy car and other insurance policies in any member state, meaning cheaper premiums for many.

Other single market directives, such as the ISD, could remain stuck. Governments are still at loggerheads over how to make food safer. Germany and Denmark both favour the directive on irradiation, but the more sensitive palate of France will not countenance it.

The answer may be to accept the British argument and drop the directive altogether. The Commission has already had to accept defeat on 19 of them. Will our lives be any different because of the single-market programme? Consumer organisations forecast

lower prices because of harmonisation, and although these have not yet filtered through, they will probably be proved correct in the long term. With car type standards in place, for example, Europe's car manufacturers will no longer have to make small changes in models for various member states, and the economies of scale of tomorrow's "Euro-cars" should make them cheaper.

Test Achats, the Belgian consumer organisation, recently estimated that food prices would come down by between one and two per cent in the unified market, while financial services, for the Belgian consumer, should be up to 16 per cent cheaper. With a 15 per cent minimum rate of VAT at last agreed, a general levelling out of prices is to be expected. The 35 per cent disparity between the price of a compact disc-player in Belgium and Britain, for example, should narrow.

Test Achats is now calling on the Commission to put forward a directive enshrining a "consumers' charter" that will help customers benefit from the 1992 programme.

Analysts predict that the most visible effects of single-

market legislation could come in areas such as waste management and recycling. It will also affect the labelling of products. Eco-labelling of foods produced in an environmentally friendly way will become commonplace, and after 1992 the Commission may turn its attention to slapping health warnings on alcohol, an industry it has so far neglected.

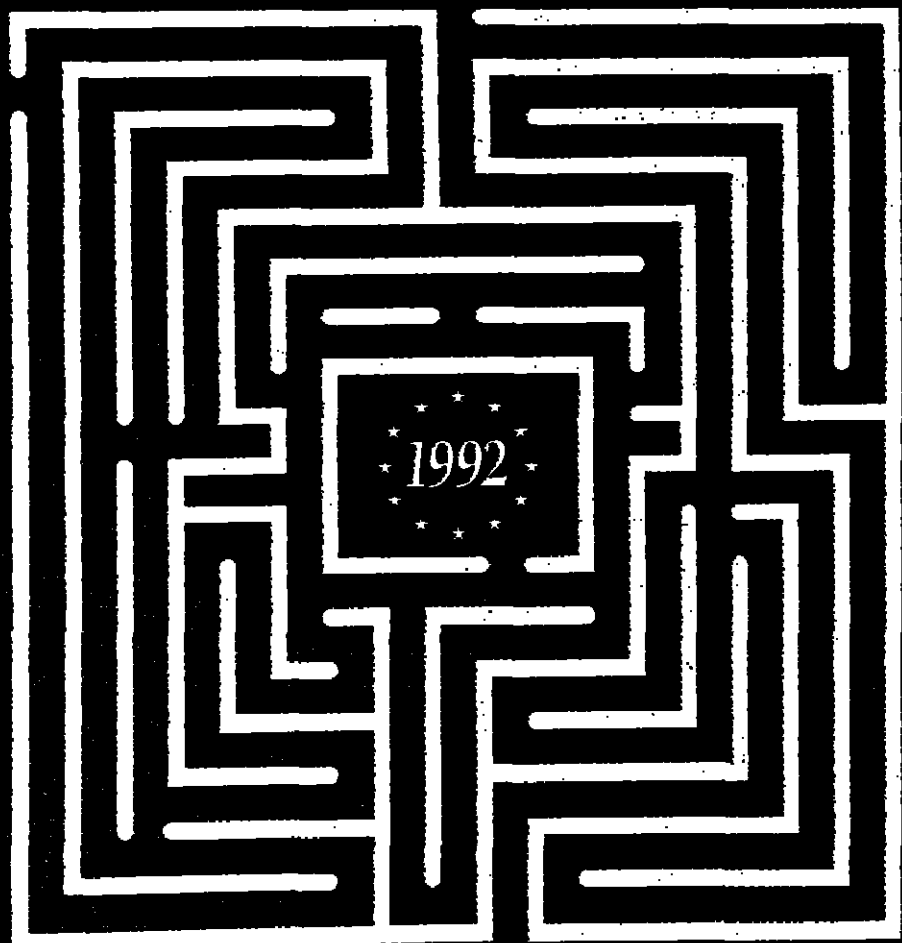
Much of this change will not be seen until 1993 at the earliest. "For the man in the street," says one consultant, "I don't think 1992 is going to be very exciting. The single market is a very gradual process."

On rates of uptake, Denmark still heads the table with 125 directives transposed into law. France comes next, and Britain is in third place with 113. Recent Commission research shows that, in addition to Italy, other former slugs are catching up.

Spain and Ireland have pushed through the best part of 20 directives recently. Ironically, Luxembourg, traditionally seen as so Europhile, now foots the table, with only 60 per cent of the 1992 directives incorporated into law.

T.W.

If you still find Europe 1992 a maze...



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- Do you prefer to speak directly without an intermediary to another business man in the European Community?
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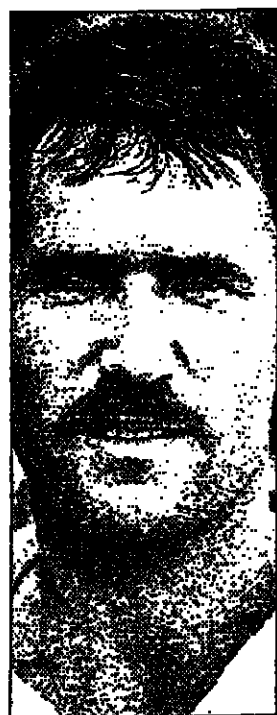
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ENTREPRISE POLICY

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Australia stumped by series business



FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

THIS World Cup will be remembered for many qualities and much emotion. Unless things dramatically alter in the three remaining matches, however, it will not be remembered with awe or affection for its standard of cricket.

Of the four countries through to the weekend semi-finals, the innovative New Zealand and character-packed South Africa have excelled themselves. Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain, would presently win the award for the brains of the tournament and Kepler Wessels for the most impressive personality. A month ago, either nomination would have been regarded as facetious.

Pakistan, however, are through in spite of themselves, coming good just in

time after a sequence of indisposed performances, and England have qualified as the Jekyll and Hyde, unbeatable one week, unspeakable the next.

The also-runs were always likely to include Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe and although both managed to defeat one of the semi-finalists, the balance of their cricket was poor.

It would have needed an astute star-gazer to have pinpointed, four weeks ago, the other three teams who would miss out. On the face of it, the one thing Australia, India and West Indies have in common is a previous World Cup triumph, an honour that will remain exclusive to them for only five more days. Closer inspection reminds us that they share another distinction, though in terms of their World Cup campaign, disadvantage may be a more appropriate word. These were the three teams

that contested the grandly named and preposterously overplayed World Series Cup, and it may not be unconnected with the fact that none of them have a remaining interest in the immeasurably more important tournament which followed.

For those unfamiliar with this facet of the Australian game, the World Series Cup involves three countries playing each other four times each in order that the top two can play each other three times more in the "grand finals".

It is an interminable way of settling a quite minor limited-overs competition but its marketing is impressive and the crowds are drawn faithfully back for the familiar routine. Heavens, almost 65,000 watched match nine of the 12 qualifiers this January, and the entire saga, finals and all, was seen by 375,000.

In truth, touring teams

play World Series on sufferance, for it is a gruelling tournament of no lasting prestige. If it was not for the money on offer, both through the gates and from the television puppeteers, official opposition to it would be less covert.

In this, of all years, it seemed natural to assume that the Australian Cricket Board would do away with World Series, not only in order that spectators could conserve their funds and enthusiasm for the only one-off event that matters, but also for the good of their own national team.

Instead, they shoehorned the annual marathon into a barely discernible gap in an already crowded schedule, subjecting the Australian side and, in consequence, the Indians, to ten limited-overs internationals even before the World Cup began. West Indies played badly enough to get away with eight.

The theory that this constituted good practice for the World Cup has been exposed as hogwash. What it was is overkill, burn-out. What it was is pure administrative greed, combined with a dash of cowardice for allowing television to call the tune. The penance has been severe and now, when it is too late, it has been recognised as such.

Allan Border, reflecting yesterday on why the holders' defence has so dismally failed, once more used the word "jaded". He added: "Any sportsman will tell you it is pretty hard to peak all the time, which is basically what we were asked to do. We should have prepared better and gone into a camp at least a week before the tournament started."

Border accepts the Australians were complacent in their lack of preparation. Consequently, by the time

they began to play with the essential spark and strategy to rival the thinking of teams such as New Zealand and England, they were on the way out.

When India were not suffering from bad weather, they were suffering agonisingly narrow defeats. Maybe, though, it happened too often for sympathy to be heartfelt. India were equipped to win the tournament; what they patently did not have was the instinct to win it.

West Indies' problems were different. After more than a decade of ruthless efficiency in the one-day game, they now too often play it with brainless abandon. Their cavalier batting when caution was wanted, and their chaotic running between wickets in the loss to Australia in Melbourne on Wednesday were symptomatic of a team lacking direction and leadership.

Dangerous opponents bar New Zealand's path to the final

Pakistan run into form at exactly the right time

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN AUCKLAND

BEFORE knowing who New Zealand's opponents would be in their World Cup semi-final here tomorrow, Martin Crowe, their captain, said that he would prefer South Africa to West Indies or Pakistan because of the ease with which New Zealand beat them on the same ground three weeks ago. In the event, they have landed Pakistan, the only side to get the better of them in the qualifying rounds.

Great credit is due to Imran Khan and his side for having overcome a succession of early setbacks, much the most discouraging of them being the loss, through injury, of Wagar Younis, potentially the greatest match-winner in the game. Nobody did worse than Pakistan in the warm-up matches prior to the World Cup and, as late as March 10, they were last but one in the qualifying table

with one win from their first five games — and that against Zimbabwe.

When they were deprived of a probable victory over South Africa by the cardinal unfair rule whereby targets are revised after rain, it seemed that the fates were implacably against them. But, just in time, their fortunes changed. It happened one night in Perth with the failure of Australia's middle-order batting and now, when it matters most, Pakistan are the form side. They are also, as Crowe says, dangerously unpredictable.

Nothing has given one more pleasure than seeing the part played by Dipak Patel, bowling off breaks for New Zealand, and Mushtaq Ahmed, with leg breaks and googlies for Pakistan. By opening the bowling so alluringly, Patel has brought a new dimension to the New Zealand side and it was Mushtaq who saved Pakistan from oblivion by removing

Jones, Mark Waugh and Border under the lights at Perth. They have both been wisely used by their respective captains. Crowe thus putting a theory into practice and Imran backing a hunch.

The batting of Greatbatch has contributed so much to New Zealand's success that the trouble he had trying to fathom Mushtaq's wrist spin in Christchurch on Wednesday is not a good augury for tomorrow. When they face each other again — if they do — Greatbatch will not have forgotten the googlies that fired his forward defensive stroke in Mushtaq's first over on Wednesday. Against South Africa and India, too, Greatbatch was in difficulties as soon as a spinner came on.

Tomorrow's should be an excellent match. New Zealand have not fluked their way to where they are. They have done it by playing good, positive and calculated cricket and Crowe has led them

innovatively and well. Playing at Eden Park will also be much to their liking.

It is a ground where local knowledge is particularly useful, with the boundaries square of the wicket being short and a pitch that is diagonally placed and slow enough to try the patience of batsmen playing on it for the first time.

Pakistan know now that they have the beating of New Zealand. They are the more widely-experienced side and possess more cricketers of genuine rare ability. In this category, New Zealand have only Crowe, as compared to Pakistan's Imran, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram and Salim Malik.

Nor do slow pitches bother the Pakistanis unduly: they are brought up on them at home. If they can keep their emotions under control, they should win — and go on to fight out a nail-biting finish with England in Melbourne next Wednesday.

England A to tour next winter

FROM RICHARD STREETON
IN ST VINCENT

AUSTRALIA, South Africa, or India and Pakistan, jointly, are the possible hosts for an England A tour next winter, it was disclosed here yesterday by Ossie Wheatley, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board cricket committee.

"You have to invest and plan for the future in the international game these days," Wheatley said. "As long as the money is available, the board is firmly committed to A tours."

Wheatley stressed that they helped players to bridge the gap between county and Test matches and ensured that no talented cricketers were missed. It was important to get value for money and, in that context, the first unofficial Test match in Trinidad had been disappointing.

"I hope the pitches in the next two games are better and that at least two of our batsmen make centuries or that our bowlers come into their own," he said. "I'll do wonders for their self confidence." He said England had fought hard in the Test and had behaved in an exemplary fashion in spite of problems. Asked about several debatable umpiring decisions, he said: "Ours is the only professional circuit in world cricket. If we do not maintain standards in that area, the rest of the world would soon follow along the wrong path."



Making tracks: Jennings on the way to her IAAF win in Belgium last year

Jennings right on target

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN BOSTON

THE press will be after Liz McColgan on Saturday. So what's new? Her recent achievements have made her a piper for the media. But there is a difference this time. The press will be pestering her during her first big race of the year.

McColgan lays her now considerable reputation on the line in Boston this weekend, when she attempts to win the world cross-country championship for the first time.

Given her rapid-fire hits of the past few months — world 10,000 metres and New York marathon titles, a half-marathon world best and an indoor world record for 5,000 metres — the talk on the British side of the Atlantic assumes yet another McColgan success.

But on the other side, the same is being said of Lynn Jennings who, as a freelance journalist, has demonstrated that she runs as good a race as she writes. She has won the title twice and is going for three in a row. "As the

favourite," says the glossy brochure of her sponsor.

There will not be many shouting for McColgan. After taking her first two world titles in Europe, the States have handed Jennings the chance to complete the treble on her home course.

Franklin Park, Boston, is where Jennings began running as the only girl on her high school boys' cross-country team, and where she won the United States title this winter.

She wants the treble for two reasons: her own fulfilment and "to give something back". She says: "It would give so much to the running community here because these are the people who have supported and cheered me for years."

Boston, home of the world's oldest annual marathon, has a strong affection for its successful runners and is counting Jennings, who lives an hour's drive away, as one of theirs. "I am a New Englander and New Englanders have a

lot of regional pride," she says.

She was fifth on that humid evening in Tokyo last August when McColgan won the world 10,000 metres gold medal. But this is her specialty. "Track is work," she says. "In cross country, I feel a different aura and I know how to win."

She does not mind admitting that her first world title in Aix-les-Bains, France, was taken against "a very weak field" and that McColgan, who finished third behind her in Antwerp last year, four months after giving birth, was less well prepared than she will be on Saturday. But her stiffer challenge yet excites her. "I expect nothing less of Liz than for her to show up in Boston ready to roll," Jennings says.

"I think it will be a tremendous race and that we will give the spectators a real treat." But it is not just a world cross-country championship at stake this weekend. It is the first round of the Olympic mind games.

BOXING

Correa joins Lewis's camp

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis is to strengthen his ties with the United States. The British and European heavyweight champion said yesterday he had split with his trainer, John Davenport, and called in Pepe Correa, who used to be in Sugar Ray Leonard's corner.

Lewis said: "Davenport taught me Maths, now Pepe is going to teach me English. I felt I was moving away from the science of the sport; I needed another outlook. I needed another view to bring me along."

Correa, who is more experienced with welterweights and middleweights like Leonard, Maurice Blocker, Simon Brown and Dan Sherry, was certain he would take Lewis to the world title.

"It doesn't matter what weight you are," he said. "A boxer is a boxer. I can take Lennox Lewis to a championship. He is a total heavyweight, a thinker."

"We have to get to the gym and work on some things first. He needs a little touch here, a touch there. I met Lennox a long time ago. Lennox has followed me, too. When the job became available, we decided to work together."

Whereas Davenport lived in England and worked exclusively with Lewis, Correa has a stable of boxers at the Sugar Ray Leonard Centre in Maryland, which will almost certainly mean Lewis is spending more time in the United States between bouts. The arrangement will do Lewis's boxing a world of good as he will be closer to good heavyweight sparring partners and have access to good quality training.

It will also fit in with the Americanisation process of Lewis, already started, to make him a successful pay-per-view product. CNN, the television network, is to show a special feature on him.

Clinton is proud of his crown

BY SRIKUMAR SEN

THE plurality of world organisations might be a source of irritation for the purists but it can fulfil a need for boxers and promoters. Thus, it did not matter to Pat Clinton, the Scottish flyweight, or his manager, Tommy Gilmour, that they won the title of the newest of the recognised bodies, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO), when Clinton outpointed Isidro Perez, of Mexico, at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, on Wednesday night.

A world title is a world title, and the WBO variety is as good as any of the other versions. It was good to see a revival of the Scottish flyweight tradition in the land of Benny Lynch and Jackie Paterson, but the problem for Gilmour is to persuade the holders of the other titles, particularly Dave McAuley, of Northern Ireland, that Clinton is equal when it comes to making a match.

Clinton will possibly defend the title in ten weeks' time, against an opponent of his choice, but Perez is seeking a re-match because he thought the decision was so close it could have gone his way. Certainly, the bout was close. Clinton won the first half with good counter-punching, which, though effective against a puncher like Perez, did not seem a good strategy against a harder man. Perez took the second half after getting through in the seventh round and keeping the pressure on Clinton. In the end, the judges were split. The Mexican was unlucky not to have gone home with his title.

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	8	7	1	0	14	+0.59
England	8	5	3	0	11	+0.47
South Africa	8	5	3	0	10	+0.13
Pakistan	8	4	4	0	8	+0.16
Australia	8	4	4	0	8	+0.20
West Indies	8	4	4	0	8	+0.14
India	8	2	6	0	4	-0.14
Sri Lanka	8	2	6	0	4	-0.08
Zimbabwe	8	2	6	0	4	-0.14

Net run-rate (NRR) is the difference between batting and bowling rates. Runs scored in no-result matches are not included.

SEMI-FINALS: Today (22.00): New Zealand v Pakistan (Auckland). Sunday (04.30): England v South Africa (Dunedin). Live coverage of both matches by Sky Sports and Radio 5.

A second day has been set aside for each semi-final. If the match cannot be completed on the scheduled day, it will be restarted the next day. If there is no result then, the team finishing higher in the group table will go through to the final.

FINAL: March 28: Melbourne (04.30).

A second and third day have been set aside for the final.

PATHS TO SEMI-FINALS

New Zealand 248-6 (M D Crowe 74 not out, K Rutherford 57), Australia 211 (D C Boon 100). Sri Lanka 216-6 (R S Mahanama 60). New Zealand 210-4 (K Rutherford 65 not out, J G Wright 57). South Africa 190-7 (P N Kirsten 88, R T Latham 60).

OTHER RESULTS: England 295-6 (R A Smith 51, G A Gough 51), India 227 (R J Shastri 57), Zimbabwe 313-4 (A Flower 116 not out, A C Waite 65 not out, K J Arnot 53, Sri Lanka 314-6 (R Mahanama 59 not out, M A R Samarasekera 75, R S Mahanama 59), Australia 170-8, South

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Australia	8	4	4	0	8	+0.20
West Indies	8	4	4	0	8	+0.14
India	8	2	6	0	4	-0.14
Sri Lanka	8	2	6	0	4	-0.08
Zimbabwe	8	2	6	0	4	-0.14

Net run-rate (NRR) is the difference between batting and bowling rates. Runs scored in no-result matches are not included.

SEMI-FINALS: Today (22.00): New Zealand v Pakistan (Auckland). Sunday (04.30): England v South Africa (Dunedin). Live coverage of both matches by Sky Sports and Radio 5.

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FINAL: March 28: Melbourne (04.30).

A second and third day have been set aside for the final.

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	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	8	7	1	0	14	+0.59
England	8	5	3	0	11	+0.47
South Africa	8	5	3	0	10	+0.13
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	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	8					



They're off: Ollie Pears, aboard the aptly named Mr Confusion, is leading jockey for 30 minutes after beating 22 other apprentices home in a curtain-raiser to the new Flat season yesterday. Doncaster report, page 35

Football League's worst offenders head for a showdown

Southampton likely to incur the FA's wrath

By CLIVE WHITE

SOUTHAMPTON seem certain to be hauled before the FA to explain their abysmal disciplinary record at the end of the season after their offences reached a total of 70 on Wednesday when they had two players sent off and four cautioned in a bruising FA Cup quarter-final replay against Norwich City at Carrow Road.

Their record, by some distance the most abject in the Football League, is already comparable with that of Wimbledon at their worst. The Dons, who until a couple of seasons ago were regular visitors to Lancaster Gate, reached an all-time high for them in 1987-88 when they had five players sent off and 64 players cautioned. Southampton have already equalled the first figure and surpassed the second.

The fact that Southampton, whose nickname is the Saints, appeared before the FA only two seasons ago for poor discipline is a certain to be taken into account if and when the FA decide on a course of action. An immediate fine and a suspended one hanging over them for another year is a distinct possibility.

Ian Branfoot, the club's manager, remains unrepentant, however. "I am

never embarrassed by my players," he said after Wednesday night's game. "I would never tell them to go out and kick people, but they compete and this was a hard, competitive cup tie. What do you expect?"

Nevertheless, the club placed Neil Ruddock, their central defender, on the transfer list when he incurred his fourth suspension of the season, though that decision was later rescinded. Ruddock is their worst offender with ten cautions and two dismissals.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, recently accused a referee of not giving his side sufficient protection from what he regarded as an aggressive approach by Southampton in a recent match at Anfield and Jeremy Goss, the Norwich midfielder, is the latest to accuse them of physical intimidation.

"They came to try to bully us out of it and the challenge on Robert Fleck [by Matthew Le Tissier] which produced the first sending-off was disgraceful," Goss said. "There's no doubt in my mind the referee was right to show the red card on both occasions."

Le Tissier, who is in England's squad for the trip to Czechoslovakia next week, has received a thinly-veiled warning from Graham Tay-

lor, the national team manager, about his disciplinary record, which is remarkably poor for a player who is often criticised for his lack of involvement. Le Tissier has been booked eight times and sent off once. Alan Shearer, his club and England colleague, has been booked six times.

"I shall not be taking any action against Matt because there is a disciplinary procedure which should be allowed to take its course," Taylor said. "But obviously players who consistently get into trouble do not do themselves any good."

The disciplinary record of first division clubs has im-

proved greatly in recent seasons but Southampton's transgressions have left them on course to rival the infamous performance three seasons ago of Portsmouth, who amassed 342 points and were fined £6,000 plus a suspended fine of £20,000.

The FA will today be in receipt of a report from police about the behaviour of an unnamed Norwich player following complaints from three spectators at Carrow Road on Wednesday. No Norwich player was booked during the game.

Aldershot will be back in the High Court today battling for the right to play what could be their final game at Cardiff a few hours later.

The High Court Registrar will decide this morning whether Aldershot's fourth division match at Ninian Park tonight can take place.

The financially stricken club, wound up in the High Court on Wednesday with debts of £1.2 million, were originally told by the Official Receiver yesterday that they could not play, but they were making a last-ditch effort to take the field against Cardiff. If they do not get permission and fail to fulfil the fixture, they will be in breach of Football League rules. "We are optimistic," the club's chairman, Mike Davey, said yesterday.

Lewis knows he is viewed as something of an enigma and he is aware that his injury record is a subject for scepticism. "It has been an annoying injury because bowling is still the most important part of my game. But there are matches when it is worth taking a risk with an injury and Sunday's is one of them."

"I still believe we are the best side in the competition and losing to Zimbabwe has not changed anything. We are very confident."

Only Graham Gooch and Robin Smith reported for a voluntary net practice yesterday as the England party wound down from playing their last three group games inside a week. A full net session was planned for today, however, at which the fitness of Dermot Reeve, in particular, would be assessed.

Australia stumped, page 36

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David Speedie was fined £250 after being found guilty of kicking the ball into the crowd following his dismissal during Blackburn's FA Cup match at Notts County last month.

Police have found no case to answer against the Stockport linesman, Bob Bowden, who was reported by several supporters for allegedly making a V sign during Preston North End's home game against Shrewsbury in February.

Leroy Rosenior, who has been given a free transfer by West Ham United, has joined Bristol City and goes straight into their squad for tomorrow's game at Sunderland.

Wright ruled out

MARK Wright, of Liverpool, and Paul Parker, of Manchester United, have been ruled out of England's game against Czechoslovakia in Prague on Wednesday (Stuart Jones writes). Both have damaged hamstrings, and both may also be unavailable for next month's visit to Moscow.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, has become accustomed to being without the two defenders. Each has been able to appear in only one international this season. The loss of Wright will

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Lewis is ready to bowl again

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

CHRIS Lewis, the problem child of England's World Cup plans, will play a full part in Sunday's semi-final against South Africa here, despite his ongoing concern about his fitness.

Lewis often seems indisposed but is just as often indisposed. The side strain he has carried around with him for some weeks now has baffled the England camp and even some of his team-mates have been bewildered that he is capable of great agility in the field yet finds bowling beyond him.

There have been times, late in the programme of qualifying games, when England were crying out for a burst from Lewis with the ball and it has not passed unnoticed that others, also carrying long-term injuries, have pushed themselves forward on bowling spells for the good of the team.

It is now apparent, however, that Lewis's personal aim always was the semi-final and, yesterday, he pledged himself to what, for England, has become an increasingly anxious cause. "There is no point in saying myself now," he said. "Earlier in the tournament, we could always make up for a defeat but, if we lose one game now, we are going home."

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Capriati underlines Seles's weakness

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN KEY BISCAYNE

IT IS still early days but Jennifer Capriati's 6-2, 7-6 defeat of Monica Seles will bring renewed hope for her pursuers in the months prior to the French Open and Wimbledon. The world No. 1 has donned the mantle of invincibility over the past five months and few felt it would slip from her shoulders in Key Biscayne, of all places, where she has been unbeaten for two years.

That she should lose to Capriati was not altogether shocking. The young American has always given as good as she has received from Seles — even beat her once, in San Diego last year.

But that an unbeaten run of 27 matches, stretching back to November should end so meekly — this was her first straight-sets defeat for ten months — at a time when Capriati, by her own admission, was still struggling to find form, was a surprise which puzzled Seles as much as everyone else.

"I was just letting her take control of the points and I was not hitting with the same power, not attacking the ball."



Capriati: smiling

"I don't know why," Seles said. "While Capriati, two weeks short of her sixteenth birthday, consistently clipped the lines with her ground strokes. Seles was that precious inch away. I felt if I could get into a third set, anything could happen," she said.

She had her chances. She served for the second set at 5-3, was broken in a flurry of errors, including two double faults, lost her serve again in the eleventh game only to force the tie-break, which she lost on another undignified double fault.

Men's quarter-finals
M. Chang (US) bt P. Sampras (US), 6-4, 7-6
J. Hasek (CZ) bt A. Charkasov (CIS), 6-7, 6-3, 6-4
A. Mancini (Arg) bt R. Krajicek (Neth), 6-4, 6-7, 7-6
J. Courier (US) bt D. Nargiso (It), 6-7, 6-2, 6-0

Women's quarter-finals
S. Graf (Ger) bt M.-J. Fernandez (US), 7-5, 6-4
G. Sabatini (Arg) bt A. Frazier (US), 6-0, 6-1
A. Sanchez-Vicario (Sp) bt A. Coetzee (SA), 6-1, 6-3
J. Capriati (US) bt M. Seles (Yug), 6-2, 7-6

Lagisquet ends his career

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Alan Davies, the Wales coach, looked to the future as his team prepared for the final round of rugby union's five nations' championship, against Scotland in Cardiff tomorrow, the French glanced back as Patrice Lagisquet — the Bayonne Express — retired from the international scene.

Lagisquet, aged 29 and capped 46 times, was a wing of genuine world class who, over the last year, has been plagued by nagging injuries. He limped out of the World Cup during the first pool match, against Romania and appears to have received little encouragement to return.

Pierre Berbizier, the French coach who hopes to recover something from this season with a convincing win against Ireland in Paris tomorrow, has indicated that Lagisquet would not be on the summer tour to Argentina. The wing will concentrate on playing for his club.

Ireland flew to Paris yesterday happy that Gary Halpin, the London Irish tight-head prop, had played a full part in training after a sore neck during the league match with Nottingham.

Meanwhile, Davies was ruminating on whether the game in Cardiff tomorrow might be his last as Wales's

coach. The Welsh Rugby Union general committee meet on April 2 and are expected to decide whether to extend the appointment of Davies and Robert Norster, the team manager; Davies is keen to continue but said: "Realistically I would have thought my chances of being asked to continue would be lessened by defeat against Scotland."

The WRU has agreed a more advanced representative playing structure next season, incorporating four B internationals and under-21 internationals.

More rugby, page 36

Nannini completes his return

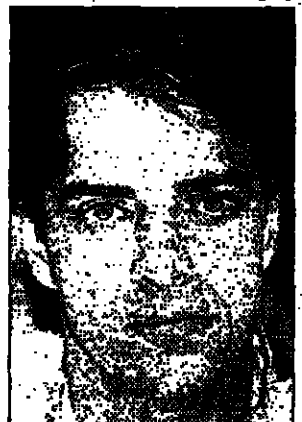
By NORMAN HOWELL

IT MAY only be the first round of the Italian saloon car championship, but it is the opening lap on the track to a career in Formula One. Monza, on Sunday, will be a world away from Mexico City and the second grand prix of the season, but the fact that Alessandro Nannini will be racing at all is a victory in itself.

Aged 32, Nannini is no wide-eyed hopeful but a driver who has already proved himself at the highest level. He was good enough to win the Japanese grand prix in 1989 and, after a second place in Spain the following season, seemed set to establish himself and the Benetton team as serious front-runners on the Formula One grid. With success came the all-trappings of a high-profile sport including a

helicopter, a status symbol but also a necessary convenience for travelling to races and testing.

It was a helicopter accident in early October 1990 at his home at Siena which has led Nannini back to Monza this weekend. The



Nannini: recovery

Italian had his right arm severed at the elbow as his helicopter crashed on landing. With the prompt help of his father and a neighbour, who placed the severed arm in a plastic bag and gave it to paramedics, Nannini was rushed to Florence hospital for surgery to sew the limb back on.

For a racing driver, such an accident might mean the end of a career behind the wheel, but not for Nannini, who confounded his doctors by recovering very quickly. After leaving hospital, and in between the operations for micro-surgery, Nannini began selling his own brand of coffee, tripling sales in less than a year. He has been successful in the property market and has a lucrative advertising deal with Ford.

He still does not have full use of his thumb while the nerve-endings in his fingers

are growing back slowly, restricting movement. Yet Alfa Romeo have willingly signed him as a driver alongside Nicola Larini, Ferrari's Formula One test driver.

As he prepares for his comeback race in the new Alfa 155 on Sunday, Nannini is under no illusions. "I did it because I am a racing driver," he said. "I could not stay at home selling coffee or helping my father out in his bakery. It was making me become senile."

"This is fun, and much less demanding than Formula One. I am four kilos overweight and the races only last a half-hour or so. I'm sure it will be good. If it isn't, if I am slow, I'll give up." Slow he is not. In testing he has been almost as fast as Larini but much faster than the others.

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FRIDAY MARCH 20 1992



Out of the sun there swoops a song that eventually goes flat: the wedding group photographs of Princess Anne and Mark Phillips, in 1973, and Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, in 1986, were taken in the same setting

And they all lived sadly ever after

Fairytale royal weddings are obviously the kiss of death, and I shall attend no more of them. No more writing purple prose in a foolish new hat. No more arriving at the Abbey among flag-waving citizens who have slept on the pavement overnight. No more laureates poems (*Millions of leaves on the pavement* — John Betjeman, 1973; *Out of the sun there swoops a song* — Ted Hughes, 1986).

Hacks like me, dispatched to these weddings over the last 20 years, must surely now draw the line at further effusions about brilliant processions and nuptial bliss. Reality, which humankind cannot bear very much of, must inject a sceptical prognosis into such proceedings. Great weddings: shame about the marriages.

Sir Angus Ogilvy, Princess Alexandra's husband, has remarked privately that nobody can imagine quite what it is like to marry into that family. Oh, but we can. In the Queen's 40th anniversary film we saw them in their awkward public togetherness, on their best behaviour, mother and grandmother still in charge. In any normal family, the extended presence of the older generation, however wonderful they are, tends to make otherwise adult people behave more pettishly and childishly. The middle-aged children of the royal family are still required to behave, smile for the cameras, come and say hello to the visiting prime minister — and Sarah Ferguson discovered how hard it was, especially when combined with an absent husband and hurtful media comments.

As she said on *Woman's Hour* last year, "I believe that for anyone coming from a much smaller lifestyle into that family is a major change. Suddenly you're thrown into the public eye and changing totally to suit the outside media and the environment."

Any couple who agree to be interviewed on television, even by a deferential Sue Lawley or Alastair Burnet, must undergo the kind of scrutiny to which no bridal pair has ever been subjected. By every nuance of body language, every glance and mannerism, they are set up to be publicly judged. When the then Princess Anne and Mark Phillips put themselves through this ordeal, it was at once plain that behind the wedding day image of the dashing dragoon and his fair bride were a bossy princess and a shy, inarticulate consort.

When Andrew and Sarah performed for the cameras, to the accompaniment of *The Power of Love*, by Barbara Rush: "I'm your lady, and you are my man..." their puppyish frolicking and unabashed canoodling, the look-at-us, we're-so-in-love posturing, was absolutely riveting. They were crazy about each other. They seemed admirably suited.

Sour folk remarked that this



VALERIE GROVE

Royal nuptials are, by definition, fairytale. Has it become too much to expect, in this secular age, that those who take the starring roles should live happily ever after?

showing off was in itself a mark of their immaturity. But Sarah Ferguson's breezy self-assuredness was refreshing. "It's going to be the most wonderful day of my life, and that's all there is about it," she said. As for her dress, there would never be one to match it. And when it came to remembering her husband's name, she had a mnemonic ready: "It's just Andrew and Ace." (Albert Christian Edward) she said — but on the day she fluffed it.

She was just the sort who would have been head girl at an expensive boarding school (Hurst Lodge, Sunningdale) that turned out jolly chaperons with lots of bounce but not too many O-levels, the sort who, as Fergie did, answered adverts in *The Times* for "reliable, enthusiastic secretary/PA", aka gallery slave to a London art dealer.

At first, she took her new life at the gallop. In a clownish Biggles suit she got her pilot's licence, took carriage-driving lessons at Sandringham, learnt to fish, rode the Grand National winner in a

charity race, took over the controls of Concorde. She was a real sport. No wonder Andrew made his "marriage is wonderful" speech at Guildhall in November 1986. "Sarah is vivacious, cheerful, outgoing, vibrant. She sparkles, radiating warmth and a sense of fun," she had a "unique combination of qualities". Who is to blame when such passion fades?

The clothes she had worn — the lumpy belted cardigan over frilly ruffled blouse, her mudsplashed stockings and safety-pinned cuffs — were transformed within months by money, tailoring and designer labels. She conformed to the princessly norm. After her first pregnancy she shed half her shape, having previously, in that pre-wedding interview, declared that she would never diet. A womanly figure, she said, consisted of "a trim waist, a good up-top and enough down the bottom but not too big". "I am quite happy with my figure," she said. "Happy with myself."

So when she decided to subject herself to a physical metamorpho-

sis, it was a powerful indicator. She cut her mane of red hair and became a thin, pale, subdued creature who smiled through clenched teeth. Neither she nor her husband proved adept at judging the public mood. She persisted in throwing bread rolls; those of us who were present at the US embassy Christmas party when Andrew chose to tell the joke about Robert Maxwell and the Irish tart concluded that he too lacked that social grace of knowing what is appropriate. People who have been with the couple recently report her trying to buck her husband out of his sulks; they could imagine the bickering on the car journey home.

Nobody can say what persuades people to work hard at staying married. When I interviewed a series of couples about their long (25 years-plus) successful marriages, the only real clue was that they seemed to be good friends, and wanted to stay married. They had overcome all manner of upsets — infidelity, penury, illness, deaths of children — but they did not go under. Contentment with the married state was a pleasant plateau: once reached, marriage seemed as natural as breathing.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have reached it, comfortable and companionable, although entirely different types. They don't have to dissemble or present a facade. Marriages survive, like friendships, on affection and tolerance: passion plays a small, ephemeral part.

The privileged classes have always embraced idiosyncratic marriages: the Macmillans', despite Lady Dorothy's long liaison with Lord Boothby; the Harold Nicolson's; the Duff Coopers'. But then, divorce was unthinkable. "She's

divorced, you know," was said in whispers.

In 1956 we were led to believe that Princess Margaret had done a wonderfully noble thing when she wrote — with Group Captain Peter Townsend's help — her "mindful of my duty" letter. That day Mr Townsend was told by Sir Alan Lascelles, the Queen's secretary, that he had a choice of three exile destinations: Brussels, Johannesburg or Singapore. He chose Brussels, married a Belgian and has lived happily ever after.

Thirty years later I met Mr Townsend, then a handsome silver-haired 70, and was forcibly struck, with hindsight, by the irony of it: here was a decent, charming and civilised man ("Times may have changed", he said, "but principles have not") who might have been an ornament to the royal family.

Princess Margaret stuck out her marriage for 15 years after she first began to feel unhappy. The Princess Royal achieved 15 years, and now she has carved herself a worthy role in good works with children and prisons. Other problems, like the Duchess of Kent's nervous breakdown, and Princess Michael's tricky marriage, have been overcome with a kind of grace. What is new in the separation announced yesterday is the headlong charge into a final break, without an interim truce.

Lord St John of Fawsley says it is of little constitutional consequence. He gave his opinion on Radio 4's *The World at One* that divorce is such a common experience that for the Queen to be seen as not being exempt from "the prevailing climate of moral opinion" is "a strength, not a weakness." How odd, to hear the Roman Catholic Master of Emmanuel College viewing divorce in the family as a strength.

He was asked whether the royal family's ordinariness, and the ordinariness of their problems, did not make the whole institution appear less necessary. Not at all, he replied. The fact that they are ordinary people, with whom people can identify, but living an extraordinary life, is the source of their fascination. But he did allow that the buck stops at the monarch and her heir: what they do remains of extreme importance. (Which condemns the Waleses to a locked-in lifetime of duty and sacrifice, no matter how distant they appear to become.)

Yet anyone with even half an eye can see that a pattern has now been established in which the majority of the royal family will have lives tinged by divorce.

The Queen's two daughters-in-law arrived in the family as children of broken marriages; now four of the Queen's six grandchildren will grow up with their parents living apart — which, as the Princess of Wales said in a heartfelt speech the other day, is always painful.

The good Lord St John may be right and it may not matter about the Yorks, while the Prince of Wales and his sons are alive and well. But when the Yorks part after five years, it reinforces a general acceptance, which our children cannot fail to pick up, that marriage can be abandoned at the first hurdle. It may even be the case that marriage, undertaken for life,

is becoming almost beyond the perceived reach of most people.

The expectations implied in marrying are daunting. Most people do still seek the satisfaction of a lasting relationship. But the prevailing young view is that marriage is a fragile state. Hence the trend towards cohabitation: a course still out of the question for members of the royal family.

Perhaps we do not need the Royals to set any kind of tone. Nor are we obliged to view them through an obsessive, mawkish-censorious tabloid lens. It would be futile, too, to expect any philosophical or intellectual lead from these people — even if the Prince of Wales sometimes expresses highly popular views — when they are happiest on the race course and the polo field, their friendships are with money, old or new, and their pretensions to education are non-existent.

For several years I helped to choose which new books should be sent to Balmoral each summer, and the heart would sink at the unlikelihood of the books even

being opened unless they were the new Dick Francis.

"If you live this sort of life, which — hah! — people don't, very much", said the Queen in her film, as we saw her entire clan dancing a decorous Scottish reel, "you live very much by tradition and by continuity... This is what the younger members find difficult: the regimented side of it."

And she spoke of the Scottish soldier, to whom she gave a gallantry medal, who said, "Och, it's just the training." "You can do a lot if you've been properly trained. As I have," the Queen said, piously.

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WEEKEND TIMES TOMORROW
Lynne Truss's alternative Bafta awards

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On the rebound: but Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon's marriage lasted for 18 years

Canvases loaded with pain

GALLERIES: LONDON

Richard Cork on the brutalised and anguished world of Otto Dix, anatomist of Weimar Germany

No artist dissected the corruption, the anxiety and the despair of the Weimar Republic with more cynical savagery than Otto Dix. The heart of his overwhelming retrospective at the Tate Gallery is devoted to an afflicted Germany, reeling from the calamitous aftermath of the first world war. Having returned from a prolonged period in the trenches, Dix viewed everything through the eyes of a man nauseated by carnage and the futility of defeat.

Unsparring in his images of a demoralised nation, this indefatigable painter did not exclude the military from his corrosive gaze. In *Souvenir of the Mirrored Halls in Brussels*, a scarlet-faced officer bares his teeth as if to bite off the nose of the whore on his lap. While one hand stretches out in a caressing gesture, the other clutches her pendulous breast with predatory relish. Influenced at the time by the Dada movement, Dix employs a crude, cartoon-like style to emphasise the callousness of this barking maniac. Lust has here become indistinguishable from cruelty.

Dix enhances the nightmarish atmosphere by surrounding this main scene with a flurry of reflections. The use of multiple mirrors makes the image resemble an insane, endlessly repeated ritual. And in these reflections, the sexual act is depicted with an increasingly rancid sense of revulsion and shame.

Although the officer in this exorbitant picture bears no resemblance to Dix, the artist included himself in the cast of characters he portrayed and arraigned during the Twenties. This is *How I Looked as a Soldier* is the confessional title of an especially startling image. It depicts Dix as a battle-pummelled veteran — the man who had fought on both the western and eastern fronts and sustained several wounds as he struggled to survive at Flanders, Champagne and the Somme. He returned to Germany at the war's end with the Iron Cross (Class II) and The Friedrich-August medal.

Dix had clearly remained proud of his toughness: the portrait defines the narrowed eyes and clenched, stubby jaw of a man bent on withstanding all the bestiality of combat. At the same time, though, *This is How I Looked as a Soldier* conveys an implicit self-accusation. Six years after the Armistice, Dix is here looking back and detecting a strain of almost demonic ferocity in his scowling features.

This is a man trained to kill. Whether or not Dix accepted a measure of responsibility for his metamorphosis into an efficient slaughterer, he certainly admits in this drawing that the military system had dehumanised him and, by extension, everybody caught

up in its collective insanity. Nowhere is this realisation more horrifyingly expressed than in a painting with collage called *Skate Players*. Here a trio of war veterans play cards, their wooden legs difficult to distinguish from the equally dark legs of the chair and table. Their faces are far more grotesque than any of the cripples whom Dix had depicted out on the pavement, exposed to the public humiliation of street life. Each crudely stitched set of features amounts to an indictment of the hasty cosmetic surgery inflicted on the injured soldiers.

Even when the people in Dix's work had suffered no injuries, they were usually depicted with the same relentlessness. The journalist Sylvia von Harden, seated at a marble-topped table in Berlin's Romanisches Cafe, is transformed into a repellent creature.

Her monocle is as unsettling, in its way, as the appliances worn by the skate players. So are her vicious protruding teeth, and the fingers spread like insects across her hairily patterned dress.

Sometimes, Dix attempts to present sitters in a positive light. Marriage and parenthood brought out a gentler side in his art, but the results still have an alarming aspect. The artist's little daughter, Nelly, her blonde hair topped by a grotesquely outsize pink ribbon, stares out of the picture with a resolve bordering on belligerence. As for his wife Martha, she is transformed into an eerily blanched Egyptian mask, her elongated neck projecting like a tortoise emerging from a shell.

Part of the defensiveness conveyed in her portrait may well reflect the increasingly beleaguered quality of Dix's life. His war images became a focus for Nazi disapproval, and during the Thirties he was dismissed from his teaching post, banned from exhibiting and vilified in Hitler's notorious Degenerate Art survey.

For a while, Dix managed to sustain his previous sense of engagement. In a large painting called *Flanders* he summarised his thoughts on the first world war, and delivered an uncompromising verdict. No Nazi-approved triumphalism can be discerned in the mud-embedded figures dominating the foreground. Behind them, craters filled with rainwater stretch back to the horizon.

Although they are interspersed with thin strips of sodden earth, the soldiers sprawling there have failed to withstand the treacherous environment for long. Some have already merged so profoundly with the mud that they are no longer easy to discern. Nature seems to be reverting to a primordial state, incapable of supporting human existence any more.

Flanders memorialises defeat, and its weebone figures



An eerily blanched mask: Otto Dix's *Portrait of Mrs Martha Dix I* (1928) from the Galerie der Stadt Stuttgart, on show at the Tate

seem intended as a warning to anyone tempted by the spurious excitement involved in planning another world war. The painting tries to keep the memory of one disastrous Armageddon alive so that its successor might be thwarted. Only thus, Dix implies, can we dare to hope that peace might emerge, like the new shoot springing tentatively from the shattered tree in the centre.

The Nazis ensured that *Flanders* was never given the chance to challenge fascist warmongering in the way he hoped. Their continuing victimisation eventually affected his work, too. After the painting's completion in 1936, Dix's art deteriorated. Much of the nourishing anger was drained away, and he began concocting landscapes filled with self-conscious references to Breughel.

They lack the searing conviction of his previous paintings, and so do the canvases Dix produced in the post-second world war period. Deprived of the manic context which had stimulated him so prodigiously during the Weimar years, he lapsed into a final phase of looser, feebler and oddly forlorn work. The last 20 years of his career are represented by a single room at the Tate, and its contents compare sadly with the artist who had once flailed the conscience of his nation with outstanding incisiveness.

• Otto Dix continues at the Tate (071-821 1313) until May 17. Dix's works on paper are surveyed at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (031-556 8921) until May 10.

TELEVISION REVIEW

History fails to come to life without the eyewitnesses

Few stories are as stirring as the birth of a nation, and few nations have had such a traumatic birth as Israel. A pity that last night, Channel 4's new series *Israel: A Nation Is Born* did not communicate the violence and rapine of the consummation of Zionism by the use of eyewitnesses. Apart from one brief interview with an Arab delegate to the United Nations, the entire programme consisted of old footage. It included gems, such as what looked like a propaganda shot of the young Anwar Sadat in wartime saying: "Germany is the enemy of our enemy — England!" But a major series should create at least some of its own material.

True, many of the most colourful figures of that era are dead: Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, and a few days ago Menachem Begin. But others remain, and a few words from Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres and many other survivors of the early years would have transformed this documentary into a document.

Perhaps later episodes will include such interviews. It may also be that Likud politicians refused to take part out of hostility towards the presenter and editor-in-chief, their old Labour rival Abba Eban. The Oxford-educated former for-

eign minister was a good cicerone, but his urbane commentary on the period before 1948 was a meagre basis for so long a programme. With so little visual sustenance, it often felt as though an article were being read aloud.

Nor was Eban's narrative a smooth ride. The first half was devoted to a history of the sufferings of the Jews in Europe and their efforts to

'Apart from one interview, the entire programme consisted of old footage'

overcome British resistance to their migration to Palestine. In the middle of explaining this complex story, Eban broke off to squeeze in a rapid summary of Jewish-Arab relations from the Balfour Declaration in 1917 to 1948: a confusing flashback.

In spite of the martial music, the story remained inspiring. Many did not believe a Jewish state could survive the Arab

onslaught once the British had withdrawn, among them Monty and the American secretary of state Forrestal, who thought it was just a matter of "arithmetic": 350,000 Jews and 45 million Arabs.

Of course, the support of the United States was crucial, but it is often forgotten how precarious that support was in 1948. An old interview with President Truman illuminated this. Ernest Bevin, British foreign secretary at the time ("under whose abrasive exterior there lurked an abrasive interior", Eban remarked), had irritated Truman with his "ignominious" comment that the Jews, having waited 2,000 years, could wait a few more for their promised land. But those around Truman tried to keep Weizmann, the Zionist leader, out of the White House.

In the end Truman was persuaded by one Eddie Jacobson. "I said I'd see the doctor but he'd have to bring him in by the side door." After a long talk, Truman told them: "You two Jews have put it over on me." Washington voted for the partition of Palestine and for the recognition of Israel.

DANIEL JOHNSON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

• **THE GRUBB GROUP:** Michael Parkin's fascination with the bohemia of Soho and Fitzrovia between the Twenties and the Fifties has hit upon yet another centre of activity, Leon's Quo Vadis restaurant, 1928-39. Here the group exhibited and exchanged work for food. Among them were Gordon Craig's son Edward Carrick, the lino-cut virtuoso Claude Flight, the pitman painter George Bissill, the occultist Austin Osman Spare and the stage designer Oliver Messel. Nothing much in common apart from a love of Italian food.

Michael Parkin Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (071-235-8144) Monday to Friday 10am-6pm, until April 3.

• **POST-VORTICISM:** Not a newly-defined art movement, but an accounting of what the British artists associated with the Vorticism movement around Wyndham Lewis before the first world war were doing immediately after. Mostly they went off in their own individual directions, Lewis clinging for a while to Vorticist abstraction, Wadsworth veering towards a surrealist hyper-realism. Also included are some rare works by Jessica Dismorr and other women of the group.

Albemarle Gallery, 18 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-355-1880) Monday to Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 11am-1pm, until April 3.

• **HOGARTH AND PIRANESI:** Though they would hardly spring to mind together, Hogarth and Piranesi were contemporaries, and both were famous in their own time and since primarily as printmakers. Showing them together does not throw any unexpected light on either, but it is a good excuse to flaunt some of the Courtauld Institute's possessions, notably the 30-odd Hogarth engravings given by Sir Robert Witt in 1944 and the 14 splendid Piranesi prints bequeathed by Count Selern in 1978.

Courtauld Institute Galleries, Somerset House, Strand, WC2 (071-873-2526) Monday to Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 2-6pm, until June 7.

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YAMAHA BRASS AND WOODWIND

So that's your opinion, is it?

There are better ways than this to spend a birthday. Celia Jenkinson has woken up to tea in bed delivered by her husband, the least a man can do when his wife reaches the age of 40. But now, at 10.30am, she is in the windswept, rainswept heartland of William Waldegrave's constituency, in search of a dozen people of a certain age and a certain social status. The going is tough but Mrs Jenkinson is all smiles and high hopes.

She is treading Bristol West on behalf of Market and Opinion Research International (Mori). It is the day after the Budget and John Major has just announced the April 9 election, so this poll (published in *The Sunday Times* on March 15) is a bellwether of more than usual interest.

We need (one soon becomes part of this) three people aged 18 to 24 and seven in each of the age groups 25 to 39, 40 to 59 and 60 plus. Of these, we need seven to be in social group AB, ten in C1, four in C2 and three in DE. And 11 need to be in full-time employment, which is to say more than 30 hours a week, and the others may be part-time or what the pollsters call "economically inactive".

So the sample is 24 in this constituency, seen over two days, hence the 12 being hunted by Mrs Jenkinson today. Sounds easy? Try it.

If you want to learn about the occupants of a house just by looking at it, take a stroll with a pollster. We start in Park Grove, Bishopston. The road has all the appearances of blue-rosette territory. Smart ranks of Victorian terrace houses, three or four floors, late-model cars parked outside. But this is a marginal landscape, a three-way split between the Tories, the Liberal Democrats and Labour, albeit only the 113th most marginal seat in the country after the 1987 election.

So the samey houses tell one story, their occupants tell Mrs Jenkinson several others. She strides down Park Grove, coat trailing, scarf streaming, clipboard in hand. A commentary starts: "Oh look, a motorbike, it's amazing what can turn you on when you're desperate... someone old in there, look at those old-fashioned curtains, mind you, traditional curtains can be yuppies... ah, see that climbing plant and the red front door? That's yuppies. You have to look at the washing lines, you can tell the ages of the children from those... that car with furry dice on the mirror, young people, but couldn't be students."

Students mean flats and flats are a nightmare. Bungalows mean elderly people, who are easier to find at home than the main target group. The trouble is, the full-time employed are hard to find on a weekday morning, which raises the obvious question, to which the answer is that people are

Peter Barnard watched the work that went into the latest Sunday Times Mori poll

more reluctant to open the door at all in the evenings and daylight is safer for a woman researcher.

Mrs Jenkinson rings bells, raps knockers, takes discreet looks into deserted living rooms. Thirty houses later we have encountered only silence or old people or a tiny child who appears to be the sole occupant. Perhaps his mother is in hiding, possibly Mrs Jenkinson needs a sign around her neck: NOT SELLING ANYTHING.

At last we get a break. A man at number 101 is in, is working, is willing to answer questions. Great. The first question is: "Are you registered to vote in this constituency?" The answer is no: the man is from Romford. Goodbye.

Telling the British what social group they are is best avoided if you want to escape in ten minutes

Press on. Soon a likely looking young woman answers a door wearing a pained expression. She is in full-time work, her husband is in full-time work, she has slipped a disc. Perhaps she has seen a trace of despair on Mrs Jenkinson's face, perhaps she is simply keen to help. Could we call back in an hour?

We can. In the living room Mrs Jenkinson steps over a bed that has been temporarily made up on the floor and sits down opposite the woman, who says she is an occupational therapist and was on her way to see a patient when someone drove into the back of her car. She is clearly in pain. Mrs Jenkinson worries that this is an imposition but the woman has views and is keen to help.

Sitting opposite the interviewee is important. If you sit next to them, they see some of the boxes you tick, the social class box for instance. The researcher has to make a judgment, albeit one that is pretty clearly delineated. Mrs Jenkinson is herself AB, because her husband is a police superintendent. If he was a detective constable, he (and therefore she) would be C1. But telling the British what social group they are

is best avoided if you want to escape in ten or 15 minutes, the time the interview should take.

Some people warm to the theme. Most are only too pleased to sound off about politicians, once they understand they are not buying double glazing or a week a year in Benidorm. But this expansionary trait is bad news. The answers Mrs Jenkinson wants consist of one or two words: yes or no, more likely or less likely, better, worse. Her clipboard cannot accommodate the man who explains why he prefers John Smith to Norman Lamont, or the woman who, when asked who is more reliable on defence, says that we don't need a fourth Trident.

Nor can the questioning accommodate awkward linkage. The British electorate is by no means unsophisticated, so if you ask whether reducing unemployment or controlling inflation is the priority you will get, as we get, responses such as: "Well they're linked, aren't they? You get inflation down by putting people out of work." Heavens, surely we aren't supposed to say that, not out loud?

By noon the outlook is brighter. Four people have told us which way they voted last time and what their intentions are this time, that latter being the question at the heart of the process. Additionally, we are on a promise from a C1 policeman who has taken a week off to decorate his lounge. We return to his house and indeed the lounge looks very nice to me, which suggests that policemen have higher standards than journalists: he has not yet started decorating and answering questions is a good excuse to delay the inevitable.

The policeman's answers, given in the measured tones of someone who is familiar with the right way to give evidence, conform to a strand running through much of what we have heard all morning. We have met two avowed Conservatives, a Liberal Democrat and a floating voter and yet the theme is the same with all four: they expect the Tories to be better on some things than Labour (economy, defence, law and order), they think John Major is a better bet as prime minister than Neil Kinnock, but they are dissatisfied with the government.

Opinion polls are of course confidential, but as there is no way to link the percentage points in *The Sunday Times* with the words on this page I asked one of the interviewees, a 60-year-old financial consultant, to talk to me about this paradox. He is a lifelong Tory voter. His answers to questions similar to those posed in the Mori poll are as follows. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of John Major? Answer: satisfied. Neil Kinnock? Dissatisfied. Norman Lamont? Satisfied. John Smith (Shadow Chancellor)? Dissatisfied. Will the present government improve the economy in the longer term? Yes.



On the fence: Celia Jenkinson is trained to conceal her own views as she interviews the voters of Bristol West at the start of the election

And yet the respondent is up to here with the government. He may not vote at all in the election, or he may vote against the Tories. "I see the contradiction," he says, "but I believe the Tories have let us down very badly, especially four or five years ago when they hyped us up to go out and spend money and buy houses, and then turned around and jacked up mortgage interest rates from 9.5 per cent to 15 per cent in a very short time. Schoolboys could have sorted out interest rates better than the Tories did. And Margaret Thatcher treated small business people in a diabolical way, really awful."

Obviously it would be absurd to read too much into a snapshot of a few people on one day, which is

why Mori has banks of computers at its London headquarters to choose the right constituencies and put the right questions in the right way to the right cross-section of people. That is also why Mrs Jenkinson has visited the same interviewees this week, to find out how their views are changing as the campaign continues. But the responses I heard led to explain why Sunday's poll showed the two main parties to be so close, and why this election is so fascinating.

None of which is of much concern to Mrs Jenkinson, who has no discernible views about the election. She enjoys talking to people, but plays it strictly by the book, the one that

Mori prepares for all its researchers. She does not even explain what a question means: if someone says they do not understand, her reply is: "Whatever you think it means."

Mrs Jenkinson's concern, after two days of footslogging at £26 a day plus £2.50 for lunch and a 19p a mile car allowance, is that she has fulfilled her quota. After which she returns to her home to convert the answers into a code, which she faxes to Mori. The organisation operates from two addresses in London, a plush office suite near St James's Park and an office building in Southwark Street, south of the Thames.

There, a team of about 20 computer operators feed the outcome from Bristol West and 64

other constituencies, a total sample of about 1,500, into a series of terminals linked to a mainframe computer programmed to interpret each answer and extrapolate it as a percentage of the total. The result does not claim to be more than a snapshot, albeit a long exposure taken over 48 hours. But polls have a good track record, so ignore politicians who say they take no notice. They do.

There will of course be two types of people out on the streets the day after the election: those who have never been polled by an organisation such as Mori and those who did not vote for whoever won. But if anyone in the former category thinks that pollsters simply make it up, Celia Jenkinson knows different. As do her feet.

On the island of the lost

As new trials start in East Timor, a survivor of 'the most frightening place on earth' tells her story

Dolores Joaquim Branco's ninth birthday was meant to be a happy day. She awoke on March 11, 1979 full of excitement, wondering what presents she would get. There would be something special from her father — a doll, perhaps, or a pretty dress.

Early that morning, while Dolores and her brothers were still asleep, Indonesian soldiers had come to the house and taken their father away. "My mother did not wake us because they told her that they were just taking him for a meeting," Ms Branco says. "The soldiers said 'Don't worry, he is coming back'."

Dolores waited with her mother and her two brothers, aged five and seven. But her father, Leopoldo Heroldo Joaquim, did not come back. Now, Ms Branco is 22-years-old and one of a handful of East Timorese in Britain. At home, the soldiers have come again — this time for her uncle, who is waiting trial on charges of subversion. He could face the death penalty.

After her father disappeared, Ms Branco and her family fled to Dili, the capital of East Timor, and took refuge in the home of a relative. "He owns a large shop, and he doesn't have any trouble with the Indonesians. My mother thought we would be safe there," she says. Although East Timor, a small island east of Java in the Pacific Ocean, has a civil governor, it is run by the military. Indonesia has populated the country with its own nationals.

In Dili the family were, in fact, still not safe. Ms Branco's father was a member of Fretilin, the nationalist movement. When Indonesia invaded, he had taken his family to the mountains, which were under the control of the resistance. He brought them from the mountains three years later when Indonesia's President Suharto announced an amnesty for resistance fighters who surrendered. It was shortly after this that he was taken.



Sanctuary: Dolores Joaquim Branco is one of only a handful of East Timorese in Britain

"It was difficult for us in Dili. We used to go out in the street and the Indonesians used to shout at us 'Children of Fretilin'. Other people, the Timorese, wanted to help us but they could not do anything because they would be killed, too," Ms Branco says. The family asked for permission to leave the country through the International Red Cross, but it was eight years before they were allowed to leave. "My mother had decided that we had to get to Portugal, because otherwise we would be killed."

In East Timor disappearances are commonplace. In the 17 years since Indonesia seized the territory, the East Timorese have lived under a regime of terror. Two hundred thousand people, one third of the East Timorese population at the time of the annexation, have been mur-

dered in massacres, induced famine and bombings. Amnesty International has catalogued what it describes as "growth and systematic violations of human rights". A worker for a Christian charity described East Timor as "the most frightening place I have ever been".

The family's eight-year wait to leave East Timor is not unusual. The only way out is under the auspices of the International Red Cross, which has a family reunion plan for those with relatives abroad. Although this plan is formally accepted, in practice it is extremely difficult to obtain permission to leave.

On November 12 last year, at a pro-independence demonstration in Dili, the Indonesian army opened fire on the crowd. At least 100

people were killed. The survivors were pursued by the soldiers into a cemetery and beaten up. Foreigners present included the British journalist Max Stahl, who filmed the terrible images of brutality which have since been shown around the world.

Ms Branco's uncle, Francisco Miranda Branco, was arrested and charged with subversion for "being involved" in the demonstration. His trial opened in Dili last week, was adjourned and is due to continue shortly. The judge refused to allow Signor Branco's lawyers to defend him. In their place, the judge appointed a local lawyer.

The trials of two other East Timorese, Fernando de Araujo, aged 26, and Joao de Freitas Camara, aged 37, opened on Monday in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital. They are charged with sub-

version for involvement in a peaceful protest in Jakarta on November 19. Their lawyer, Abdul Rachman Hakim, who is the head of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute, says: "Very few people, or can I say no one, are acquitted if brought to trial under the subversion law. They are sentenced to life imprisonment, 18 years or, at a minimum, six."

Amnesty International is very concerned about the trials. "The charges look as if they contravene the right to freedom of expression and association. Even if they did not, we are concerned because we believe political trials in Indonesia have persistently fallen below international standards of fairness," a spokeswoman says.

Ms Branco last saw her uncle in 1987, when the family left for Portugal. "We are really worried about the children and his wife because when they arrested him and put him in prison they cut off his wages and there is nothing coming into his house. He is the father of seven children, aged from two to 15. I feel sick with worry. I don't know how the children are going to live."

A year ago, Ms Branco left Lisbon for London. Her mother and two brothers remained in Portugal, where her mother works in a factory. Ms Branco is one of only six East Timorese known to be living in the United Kingdom. She lives with a Portuguese family, works in a clothing factory and studies English part-time.

"I believe we will go back to Timor," she says. "We know it is a difficult problem to be solved. It's been 17 years now. What we want to ask the world is that it turns its eyes towards our country."

MARGARET COLES

• A memorial service for those killed in the massacre at Santa Cruz cemetery will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, tonight at 5pm. The British Coalition for East Timor: 071-634 4700

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Maus, the moving Holocaust allegory, has a sequel

Of mice as men

When Art Spiegelman's *Maus* was first published in 1986, it was instantly perceived to be an extraordinary and quite unforgettable book: it dealt with the events in Poland during the lead-up to the Holocaust in comic strip form, with Jews depicted as mice and Nazis as cats.

Do not imagine that the result trivialised the subject. The book was a faithful transcript of the traumatic recollections of one who survived both Auschwitz and Dachau. Mr Spiegelman's own father.

Maus was translated into 16 languages, instantly became a best-seller, and gained its creator the sort of media attention that he still does not relish. *Maus II* tells of the closure of the ghettos, the transportation to Auschwitz and the liberation of the camp at the end of the war. It has already sold nearly 20,000 copies in hardback in the United States since October.

Mr Spiegelman is in London preparing once again to be as modest as possible about his achievement. "It's not just modesty," he says. "There is still all the guilt about having done so well out of the pain and death of others."

Both his parents were incarcerated in the death camps, and Mr Spiegelman, a 44-year-old father of two, recalls how, as a child, he became aware of the extent of their trauma only upon learning that other people's fathers did not habitually scream through the night.

The toll upon the whole family has been heavy. After experimenting with LSD when he was 19, Mr Spiegelman had a psychotic breakdown. He was placed in a mental hospital, only to be released on condition that he return to live with his parents who, in his estimation, were the very ones who had driven him crazy. Upon his return, he discovered that his mother



Under the swastika: from Mr Spiegelman's book

had committed suicide. He submerged himself in the underground comics movement in San Francisco and was the founder-editor of the avant garde comic book *Raw*. *Maus* was not so much a catharsis ("I don't like confusing art and enemies," Mr Spiegelman says) as a passionately felt and beautifully evoked work of art.

The mice in the book are drawn with deliberate simplicity. "You look into those black disc eyes and get great emotion because you are not told what to feel," he explains. But why mice? "They had to be animals," Mr Spiegelman says. "I needed the distance. Also, dehumanisation was a necessary component of mass killing. Jews were viewed as vermin — they were not killed, not murdered, but exterminated."

The project gave him an illusion of mastery over the unmasterable, he says, and reinhabiting what his parents went through by box was "a way of learning to remember". He reflects, and says: "I've come out of the closet as a Jew. I don't consider myself a Jew." And then, his grin broadening, he says: "For a long time all I could think was being a Jew was not a good idea because they could kill you for that."

But *Maus* is not quite yet in the past: Mr Spiegelman admits that a postscript volume is planned. It is provisionally titled *Main Kampf*.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

• *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Began* is published on March 26 by Andre Deutsch, £13.99, and in paperback by Penguin at £8.99.

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DEMART PRO ARTE / DACS, LONDON 1992

No peace for the wakened

Insomnia, whether fleeting or long-term, makes life a misery for many people at some time in their lives. Liz Gill reports on its causes and common-sense cures

There is, Kathleen McGrath feels, a certain amount of compassion fatigue towards insomniacs. She says those who go out like a light as soon as their heads hit the pillow find it hard to imagine the alternative.

Even health professionals experience difficulties in dealing with the condition, despite the fact that insomnia — defined as insufficient or non-restorative sleep — is one of the most common reasons for visiting a doctor. Estimates suggest that between a quarter and a sixth of the population will suffer sleep problems at some point.

Women report insomnia twice as often as men. "It may be that women are more open, more willing to seek help," Miss McGrath says. "Or it may be that they are more predisposed to be worried."

A conference on insomnia, designed to raise awareness of the distress it can cause, was held in London this week. Miss McGrath, a former nurse and the director of medical education for Galaxy Medical Services, the organiser of the conference, first became aware of the incidence of insomnia when she ran a health helpline.

"The calls we got at night were very different. In the day people would be asking practical questions. At night they spoke of fear and pain and unhappiness. At night your metabolism winds down, your temperature and blood sugar levels drop, but there is also this tremendous sense of isolation."

Experts recognise different types of insomnia: difficulty in getting off to sleep; short periods of sleep combined with long periods of wakefulness; near-constant periods of sleeping and waking and early waking. It can be transient, short-term or long-term.

Transient insomnia is, as the name suggests, caused by some passing episode, such as sleeping in a strange bed. Short-term insomnia would be due to a recognisable direct cause such as

acute illness, pain, bereavement, stresses such as divorce, moving house, examinations or an inability to organise sleep patterns because of jet lag or shift work. Insomnia which persists longer than a month is classified as chronic, or long-term, and needs further physical or psychological exploration.

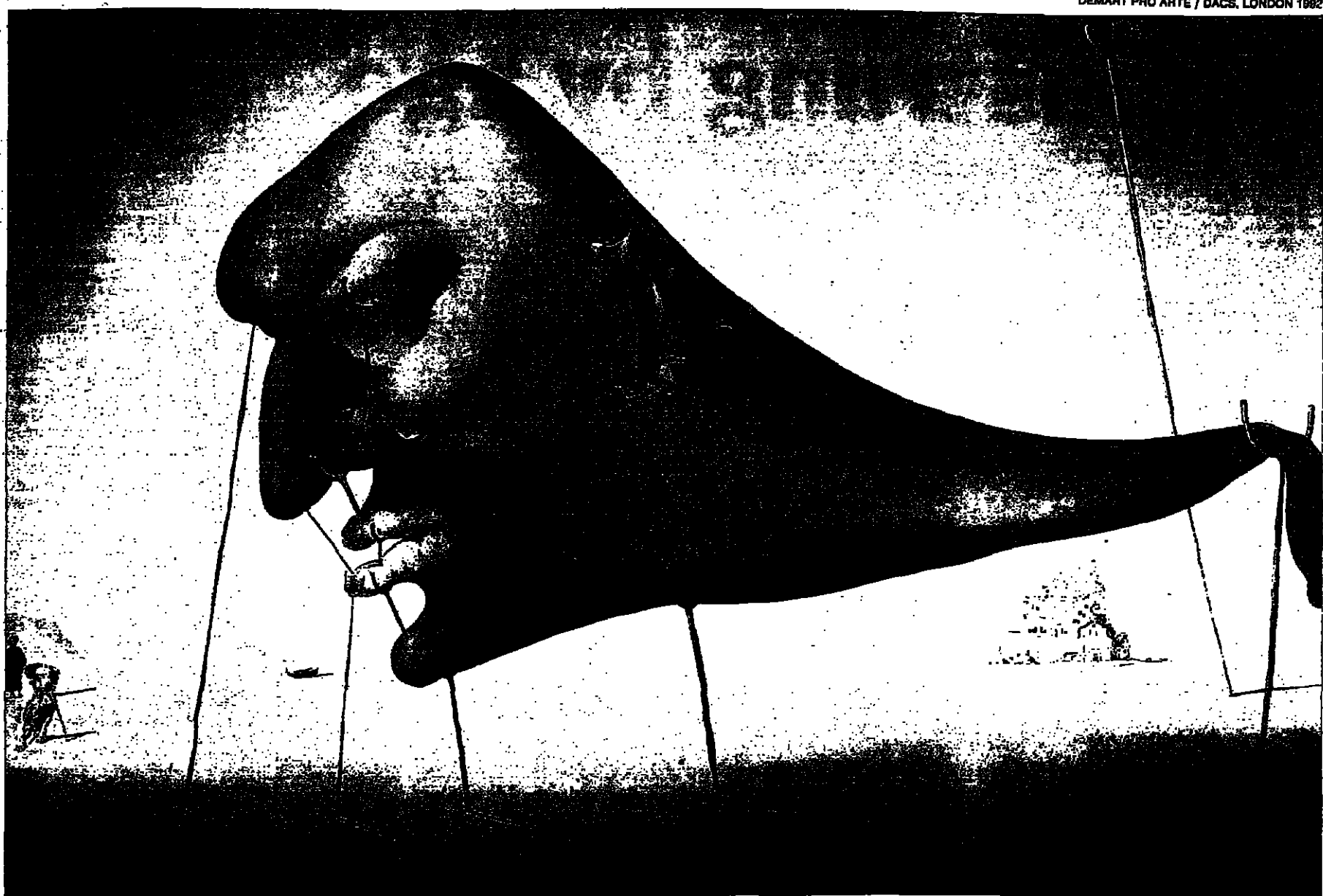
Professor Jim Horne, the director of the sleep research laboratory at Loughborough University, says that insomnia is both common and distressing. "People get extremely worked up about it. The more worked up they get, the harder it becomes to go to sleep. But a lot of fears can be allayed. People fear they will get ill or go mad if they do not get enough sleep but most people do get enough."

One of the perplexing things about insomnia, Professor Horne says, is that those who suffer from it often say it takes them a considerable time to get to sleep, when it is studied in the laboratory or measured at home it is found that they do go to sleep reasonably quickly. But time appears to pass more slowly, and, after falling asleep, they wake up again.

"They don't realise they have been asleep, and perceive it all as wakefulness," he says. "It is not as good as full-blown sleep, but is better than nothing. The acid test is whether you feel sleepy during the day, apart from the early afternoon."

"You have to separate sleepiness from tiredness which is to do with weariness, sluggishness, having no energy. Those who feel like this will not necessarily fall asleep if given the opportunity."

Sydney Brandon, a professor of psychiatry at Leicester University, says that although we do not fully understand the sleep process there is no doubting its importance. "It is a very active process, not at all passive. It seems to be the brain's way of integrating the actions of today and preparing for tomorrow. Dreams are like a computer running through all the day's



Knitting up the unravelled sleeve of care, or falling apart at the seams? Salvador Dalí's *Sleep* (1937) gives a surreal impression of a real human need as vital as eating

'People fear they will get ill or go mad if they do not get enough sleep'

information, discarding the unnecessary and integrating the necessary. Rapid eye movement sleep (light, "dream" sleep) is so critical that prolonged deprivation can cause the sufferer to become confused and hallucinate.

"There is no doubt anxious people have insomnia which makes them less efficient and therefore more anxious. It's a vicious circle. But with mania or depression sleep disturbance is an integral part of the illness. All the patient's cyclical activities — appetite, for instance — change."

Many doctors and patients are now wary of sleeping tablets because of the dangers of possible side-effects and dependence, but most experts feel their use is justified in specific cases such as aiding a sufferer over a particularly bad patch.

Otherwise, attention to "sleep hygiene", caring for your sleep, is likely to prove as effective. Professor Horne has some key rules: "Do not lie in bed. If you cannot sleep, get up. You do not want to start associating bed with distress. Go to a room you associate with

wakefulness and do something that is absorbing and practical. Jigsaw puzzles are often good because they involve the hands and take your mind off things, while books often lead to more troubled thoughts. Don't return to bed until you are sleepy. If it does not work, get up again."

"Always get up at the same time, even if you have only had two hours' sleep. This might seem a harsh regimen, but it does help to settle you and retain your biological rhythms. Avoid daytime naps to allow for the possibility of going to bed at say, 3pm."

Professor Brandon says insomnia may often have a simple cause: an uncomfortable bed, a snoring partner, a noisy environment, going to bed too early or too high a mood from, say, watching a too stimulating television programme. "You should keep the

bedroom for sex and sleep. You should not take work in there or the television because it prevents you associating it with rest and relaxation. Getting an accurate analysis of insomnia is important. There is little use in concentrating on sleep hygiene if the patient is beginning to suffer a profound depression, and no point in giving a sedative if the patient is concealing a drinking problem."

Alcohol problems and depression are among the most common causes of chronic insomnia, says Susan Mitchell, a GP and lecturer in primary health care at the University College and Middlesex medical schools. Often, though, when these and other causes are eliminated, "what you are left with is the fact that the patient's body has just got into the habit of not sleeping," Dr Mitchell says. "Of course, those who need only four hours and use the extra time fruitfully would regard their sleep as enough, and they are not the ones who come to a doctor."

For those who do she recommends planning a proper sleep routine and sticking to it. "It can

take a long time, but it does work. If your thoughts keep you awake you should set aside a specific time earlier in the day to deal with your problems. If it still happens in bed, get up, go into another room and spend ten minutes trying to sort it out. Make a plan or a list of what has to be done next day to deal with it. You may have to get up two or three times, but it is important not to let bed become associated with worries."

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A WORLD OF THEIR OWN

Autistic children, unable to describe in words what they think and feel, say it with pictures. More Health, Page 6

Bush's green alternatives

SOME time ago, George Bush caused an uproar when he admitted that he dreaded being served broccoli at public dinners. Broccoli growers led the protest, but it wasn't confined to them, for every health freak from Alaska to New Orleans joined in their condemnation of his rejection of a vegetable which seems to have many medicinal properties.

Research from the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine in Baltimore has now shown that not only is broccoli rich in betacarotene, already acknowledged as one of the antioxidants which may give some protection against cancer, but that it also contains the chemical sulforaphane. This stimulates a cell enzyme which inhibits malignant change.

The good news for the president is that sulforaphane is not confined to broccoli, but is present in other vegetables including carrots and spring onions as well as in all plants to a greater or lesser extent, of the *Cruciferae* (cabbage) family. He can therefore compensate for his dislike of broccoli by ordering cabbage, sprouts or cauliflower together with, perhaps, carrots. Unexpectedly, ginger is also a rich source; the decadent, it seems,



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

can therefore spurn nanny's advice to eat up their greens, and help to stave off cancer by going for crystalline ginger.

News of this American research coincides with a plea in *General Practitioner* magazine for greater awareness of the dangers of cancer of the mouth and lips. It is thought that these tumours may be inhibited by betacarotene. There are more than 1,900 new cases of oral cancer each year. These mainly occur in smokers and the danger is multiplied ten times for a smoker, or 70 times for a smoker who also drinks heavily.

Excess alcohol by itself does not seem to have much influence on the incidence of oral cancer, but it does enhance the carcinogenic properties of tobacco.

Eighty-five per cent of cases of cancer of the mouth occur in the over-fifties. The patient's outlook depends on where the tumour started: cancer of the lip, for instance, is curable in 94 per cent of men and 75 per cent of women, whereas cancer of the gum will be fatal for 40 per cent of men and 50 per cent of women.

Early diagnosis gives the best chance of success. The rules are simple: patients who have a mouth ulcer which has persisted for more than two weeks, or any lumps, should seek advice from their doctor or dentist.

The latter are perhaps more accustomed to diagnosing mouth lesions, and are used to detecting the moment when the red and white patches found in smokers' mouths start to turn nasty and need biopsy.

Trials of the protective effect of vegetables rich in vitamin A, and its precursor betacarotene, are under way. It is hoped that these vitamins may increase the chance of survival for patients who have had a proven tumour treated, and also prevent an unfortunate common occurrence: the development of another primary tumour.

Cancer counter

CANCER of the male breast is much more common in those men who show signs of feminisation, such as large breasts and small testes. This may be the result of heavy alcohol consumption, which upsets the hormonal balance and emphasises the effects of oestrogen, for men as well as women produce this "female" hormone.

Tamoxifen, the drug which has been shown to be so valuable as an adjunct to other forms of treatment in many cases of cancer of the female breast, particularly in post-menopausal women, acts fundamentally as an anti-oestrogen preparation. It is not therefore surprising that Tamoxifen is equally efficacious in prolonging the life of men who have had cancer of the breast.

The *British Journal of Cancer* reports that research workers in Manchester's Christie Hospital gave Tamoxifen to 39 male patients with well-established mammary cancer. Of those treated in this way, 56 per cent were still disease-free after five years compared with only 28 per cent who were not given Tamoxifen.

The advantages of Tamox-



ifen are constantly being reiterated. Recently, *General Practitioner* reported on other useful side-effects of Tamoxifen: it has been found that it improves levels of cholesterol and cuts the death rate from coronary thrombosis. Now it is suggested that there is evidence that it increases the number of benign

ovarian cysts, which seems to be associated with a decrease in malignant change.

This will cause diagnostic problems, but it is possible that these findings may be the first evidence that Tamoxifen could paradoxically have an oestrogenic effect on the ovaries, and thereby protect patients from ovarian cancer.

Waste not

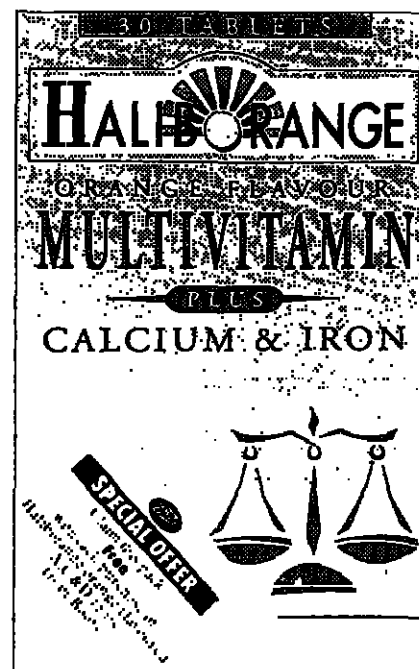
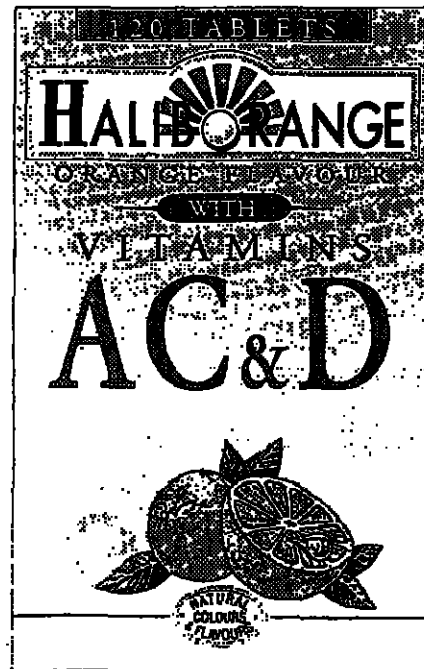
STORIES that Indian holy men, and even some aged Indian politicians, drink their own urine each morning never fail to cause a shudder among those Europeans who prefer to start their day with orange juice.

However, *New Scientist* magazine reports that Australian research workers have shown that human urine can be a rich source of the hormone melatonin, which is involved in determining the human sleep cycle.

Melatonin, mainly known for its role in counteracting jetlag, can, if taken by the sleepless, reduce their edginess and promote tranquility. Melatonin, too, has a mild analgesic effect, and can relieve minor aches and pains.

Like her Indian counterparts, Margaret Thatcher gets up at the crack of dawn, and is able to manage on little sleep. But in her case this was to govern, rather than to meditate. She was, however, able to achieve this without resorting to such a bizarre aid. But it is interesting to think that if she had had additional melatonin she might have lost her blue at the dispatch box and become more tranquil.

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Alice Thomson on the injury that afflicts three of England's World Cup cricket team

Hamstrung by age

Hardly a week seems to go by without a cricket Test match or one-day international somewhere in the world, and the same can be said of cricket injuries.

In the past few weeks the England World Cup team has notched up seven sets of injuries and the list of the unfit now encompasses more than half the 14-man squad.

Of all the complaints suffered the most dreaded is the insidious hamstring injury which has claimed three victims: Graham Gooch, the England captain, Allan Lamb and Philip DeFreitas.

The hamstrings are the three main muscles that run down the back of each leg from the buttock to just below the knee. A tear to any one of these constitutes a pulled hamstring and occurs if the muscle is forced from a contracted to an extended state too rapidly. The hamstrings stretch across the back of the hip joint and the knee joint, so they are in double jeopardy from being stretched when the knee is bent and the hip extended at the same time, as might happen when fielding or running a sharp single.

John Childs, the spin bowler who plays for Essex, the county champions, strained a hamstring two years ago. "I felt this searing agony," he says. "It felt like the whole muscle had seized up and it was two weeks before I could extend the leg properly."

Vivian Grisogono, the chief physiotherapist at the Royal Masonic Hospital and author of *Sports Injuries - A Self-Help Guide*, sees more than ten patients a week with hamstring problems. "The reason the hamstrings are so vulnerable is that they have very long tendons and are relatively inelastic, just like pieces of string, so they do tear easily," she says.

The injury is common in sprinters, footballers and tennis players. Mark Wright of Liverpool is currently afflicted. As their leg stretches out in full stride, the hamstrings on their forward leg are stretched, then contract violently as their foot lands on the ground. If the current World Cup is anything to go by, middle-aged English cricketers seem to have become particularly prone to this complaint. Ms Grisogono believes this is because of the peculiar nature of the game.

"The batsmen, bowlers and fielders all have long periods of inactivity when they get tired and

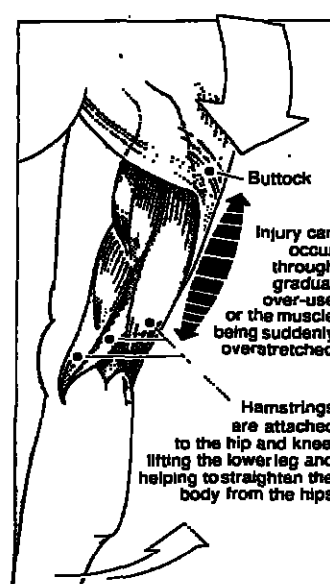


Graham Gooch goes: England's captain (second from right) leaves the field with an injured hamstring

cold and their muscles tighten up. If they suddenly have to stretch them to catch a ball, sprint or bat, it is the hamstrings that come under pressure. If it is a dramatic stretch the tendon might tear suddenly, or it might happen gradually over time," she says.

John King, the director of the academic department of sports medicine at the London Hospital Medical College, also believes one of the main problems with the English team is age (the average is 30). "This year we have fielded a particularly mature team," he says. "This may be beneficial in terms of skill and mental stamina, but as you get older your back gets less flexible, your muscles are more easily irritated, you are more likely to have had old hamstring problems and the injury takes longer to mend. It is the two oldest chaps (Gooch is 38 and Lamb 37) that have got the bad hamstring problems."

He is also critical of the pressure that this particular tour has put on the players. "They are travelling huge distances, there is very little time for them to rest and they are under a high level of stress during



one-day events. It is surprising that the English haven't suffered more."

The England team was meant to have been the fittest ever to have left the country, but Dr Thomas

Crisp, who has spent nine seasons as Essex county cricket club's medical adviser, questions the relevance of their training. During Dr Crisp's time at Essex he has seen cricket injuries at the club rise from 20 a season to 90.

"Cricketers lag well behind most other sportsmen in terms of fitness, and so are more prone to injuries," he says. "They need to be treated as proper athletes and we need to apply some science to their training. They are the only team that do not travel with their own doctor."

Dr Ken Kingsbury is the medical adviser to both the Sports Council and the British judo team, which also suffers from a high level of hamstring injuries. "If the cricketers want to forestall any more hamstring problems they should be employing professional masseurs to do muscle spasm release work, do regular warm-up and cool-down exercises and have constant check-ups with osteopaths," he says. "A mild hamstring problem may recover within a week, but a more severe problem can last for more than three months. The only real cure is rest."

Worlds of sense

A new film by autistic people offers an insight into their lives

Nobody who has seen Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man* will forget the autistic Raymond, with his strange, literal-minded obsessions and useful ability to win thousands of dollars gambling. But, although the film did a lot to heighten public awareness of autism, no autistic person outside Hollywood has anything like Raymond's amazing group of skills, and for most autistic people and their families the condition remains a very difficult one.

Symptoms vary but, in general, autistic people find it hard to hold ordinary conversations, touch other people or meet their gaze. They compulsively repeat certain stereotyped movements for hours on end, and often become hysterical if stopped. They may have food fads or screaming fits, and many never speak.

Those who do are usually literal-minded, lack imagination and empathy and, because they find ordinary social situations so difficult, rarely have friends. "You could say they lack an ability to recognise they are members of the human race," says Dr Lorna Wing, of the National Autistic Society.

Although they often appear scared and anxious, it has always been hard to know how autistic people feel. Last week, however, a unique animated film was screened at the Cardiff Animation Festival, and will be shown on Channel 4 on Monday. Titled *A is for Autism*, it was made by autistic people under the direction of Tim Webb, a professional animator, and it uses sound, vision and music to give the first real insight into their world.

"My vision and hearing were like an untuned TV," the film's soundtrack booms, amid a jumble of noises and snatches of music. "I was sometimes able to hear a word or two at the start and understand, but then the rest of the words sort of merged into one another and I couldn't make head nor tail of it... Being hugged was like being swallowed by a tidal wave."

The film shows animated children's drawings swirling in and out of focus, collapsing upon themselves, repeating aimless movements. The noise of human speech roars and fades. Intercut with the chaos is the comforting predictability of stereotype: the endless spinning of a coin, which blots out all the other confusing sights and sounds, continuous counting, the same question asked again and again to get the same answer.

The highlight of the film is a group of animated train sequences

A new film by autistic people offers an insight into their lives

by Daniel, aged nine, who is one of the 10 to 15 per cent of autistic people who are of normal intelligence. Many autistic people have a phenomenal ability to concentrate on subjects that interest them, and the laborious process of animation needs 12 different pictures per second running together to produce the impression of movement. Daniel worked for hours every day drawing and then hand-colouring his 200 key pictures - and then, when the film was finished, he did some more.

Autism is not a mental illness. It is thought to be caused by damage to the brain, although no one can yet pinpoint exactly where. It tends to run in families, and is often linked with epilepsy, encephalitis, certain viral infections and pre-natal maternal rubella or toxoplasmosis. As there is no cure, doctors aim to alleviate the problems. Dr Wing says: "Autistic people respond best to a totally predictable environment and they like the security of rules. An unthreatening, regular lifestyle helps them reach their full potential."

In 1987, attitudes towards treatment were shaken by the Japanese

Higashi school in Boston, in the United States, where each moment of the children's day is structured and learning is by rote. The children behave, according to Dr Wing, like "little angels".

However, she and other doctors are not keen to see Higashi schools here because she believes Japanese methods are culturally unsuited to the British environment.

Computers have transformed the lives and prospects of many autistic people. Some who do not normally speak will communicate by computer: their distorted sensory perceptions can cope better with visual communication than with conversation, Dr Wing says. "Words are ephemeral: speak them, and they're gone. Written instructions stay there until you can make sense of them."

In the long term, the best way to help autistic people and their families is by patient, one-to-one teaching of "normal" behaviour. At the end of *A is for Autism*, one speaker mentions, with unconscious irony, that he no longer feels a compulsive need to watch Channel 4. "It took about a year of hard work to help him out of his obsession," says Professor Elizabeth Newson, of Nottingham University, the film's consultant. "Channel 4 may not like it, but at least it shows that autistic people can be helped to change."

JENNY WOOLF

• A is for Autism will be screened on Monday March 23, 10.55pm, Channel 4.

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Mind pictures: a child's drawing from the film A is for Autism

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Kevin Eason reports on the standard bearers who so easily took a wrong turn:

And the opposition leader came a cropper recently when a certain Sunday newspaper disclosed that



cian of them all has chosen the safest bet. Stuart Hughes, the leader and only member of the Raveng Loony Green Giant Party, is touring the hustings in Honiton, Devon, in his L4-bike Rover Montego, a car designed and made in Britain. He says the Montego was a natural choice because it is a British product through and through, designed here and made at Cowley.

The candidate, who is so patriotic that he has painted his house red, white and blue, says: "I am proud to be British and that is why I bought a British car. We should all buy our national products to support our industries."

Mazda MX-6: this sporty 2.7-litre, fuel-injected V6 does 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds

SPEED limits have been lowered in Belgium. On roads of four lanes or more with no central reservation, the limit is down to 90kmh (56mph) instead

FEW of its citizens can afford to own one, but China plans to open its first retail car showroom in April in Beijing. It will allow ordinary people to buy cars, trucks, four wheel drives and motorcycles directly from the sales room. Vehicles are usually bought through the workplace from an order book. Private ownership exists but red tape and high prices deter many would-be buyers.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceeba** (7955440). 6.15 **Faces of Islam** (7963223).
 6.30 **Breakfast News** (5716778).
 9.05 **Election Call** presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. The Pled Cymru question. Dafydd Wigley answers viewers' and listeners' phone-in questions. To participate ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1360676).
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (8604285). 10.05 **Playdays**. For the very young (s) (8190310). 10.25 **Poddington Pass**. Animation (7) (8807372). 10.35 **Gibberish**. Celebrity word game for teams, hosted by Kenny Everett (8167339).
 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather (4849339). 11.05 **Health UK**. This first of a four-part series examining health issues affecting women looks at hormonal difficulties. Presented by Jane Asher (5737885). 11.20 **People Today** presented by Miriam Stoppard and Russell Grant. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (5573776).
 12.20 **Pebble Mill**. Music and chat introduced by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (2233407). 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (6061831).
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (55778). 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceeba) (s) (6179371).
 1.50 **Film: Villa Rides** (1988). There is plenty of action but little coherence in this tale of a gun-running plot (Robert Mitchum) who crashes in Mexico and is pressed into the service of the revolutionary leader, Pancho Villa (Yul Brynner, for once with hair). Directed by Buzz Kulick who took over when Sam Peckinpah, who co-wrote the screenplay, fell victim to Hollywood's unofficial witch-hunt (51384219).
 3.50 **Bitas**. Ideas for turning household rubbish into something useful (s) (612243). 4.05 **Jackanory**. Bernard Cribbins with the last part of *The Story of Doctor Doolittle* by Hugh Lofting (5740049). 4.20 **The Further Adventures of SuperTed**. Cartoon (7) (4533463). 4.30 **Hangar 17**. Among those providing the entertainment are comedian Richard Morton, pop band Sunscreen and magician Geoffrey Durham (s) (1022925).
 4.55 **Newsround Extra** (5855339). 5.05 **Maid Marian and Her Merry Men**. Part two of the children's medieval series written by Tony Robinson (7) (633588).
 5.35 **Neighbours** (7) (Ceeba) (s) (125020). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceeba) Weather (223).
 6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (575). Northern Ireland: Neighbours.
 7.00 **Wogan** (s) (5581).

Future science: the *Tomorrow's World* presenters (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **Tomorrow's World** presented by Judith Hann, Kate Bellingham, Howard Stanford and Camilla Stanger. A report on the future where scientists have developed a way of making high quality paper out of corn; and news from Nottingham on the world's first virtual reality theme park. (Ceeba) (s) (759).
 8.00 **In Sickness and in Health**. All's delight in finding an old briefcase stuffed with banknotes hidden within a wardrobe he was reluctantly leaving for Mrs Hollinghead in short lived when he becomes trapped inside. (Ceeba) (s) (1001).
 8.30 **Caught in the Act**. Shane Ritchie introduces another selection of home movie disasters. (Ceeba) (s) (9376).
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceeba) Regional news and weather (523335).
 9.50 **Party Election Broadcast** on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (214489).
 10.00 **Film: No Man's Land** (1987) starring Charlie Sheen and D.B. Sweeney. Standard car chase thriller in which a young policeman with an eye for fast cars is seduced into joining a playboy and his glamorous sister who steal new vehicles for kicks. Directed by Peter Werner. (Ceeba) (s) (261381).
 11.45 **Film: Home's Nest** (1970). Muddled second world war yarn about an American army demolition expert (Rock Hudson) who, with the help of a group of orphans and a glamorous woman doctor (Sylvia Koscina), manages to destroy an important Italian dam. Directed by Phil Karlson (205310). Ends at 1.05am.
 1.30 **On the Hastings** (239 1).
 2.00 **Weather**.

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Arts** - Narrative (3101407). Ends at 7.10.
 6.50 **Breakfast News** (9384882).
 8.15 **40 Minutes: Children's Paradise** (7) (8444730).
 9.00 **Daytime on 2**. Educational programmes.
 2.00 **News and weather** (7493554) followed by Words and Pictures (7) (2250133). 2.20 **Weekend Outlook** (7) (74915730).
 2.25 **Sport on Friday** introduced by Helen Rolison. Skiing: the final world cup giant slalom of the season from Crans Montana; Football: highlights of the week's European matches involving British clubs; Badminton: action from last weekend's Yonex All England championships at Wembley Arena; Rugby Union: a preview of the weekend's remaining five nations' matches - Wales v Scotland and France v Ireland. With News and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (69563001).
 5.00 **A Question of Sport** presented by David Coleman. Bill Beaumont and Roger Handberg. Hosted by John Alderman, Alan Tait, Eamonn Martin and Richard Underwood (7) (Ceeba) (s) (6593).
 5.30 **Top Gear**. Includes an item on whether drivers should be forced to re-take their test once they reach a certain age (7) (52).
 6.00 **Thunderbirds**. Puppet sci-fi adventures (Ceeba) (625049).
 6.50 **Dr Who**. Episode three of a short adventure *The Sea Devils* starring Jon Pertwee (7) (Ceeba) (467933). This edition focuses on fashion designer Katharine Hammett and Sky magazine stylist Shona Robertson (s) (831193).
 8.00 **Public Eye: Opting Out** - Persuading the Parents. With the general election looming, a look at which of the parties' education policies might attract the most votes (9643). Wales: (to 8.00) Election Debate from Cardiff High School.
 8.30 **Gardeners' World**. Ross expert Chris Warner advises on the perfect bloom; and Liz Rigby profiles Gertrude Jekyll (8778).
 9.00 **Victoria Wood as Seamus**. A TV. More comic sketches, monologues and songs from the talented comedienne's 1986 series. With Julie Walters, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and Susie Blake (7) (5778). Wales: Public Eye.

Media celebrity: Chi-Chi and Sam Morton, his keeper (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Arena: Chi-Chi the Panda**.
 ● CHOICE: If you think the story of a panda is a curious subject for Arena then be assured that this is no wildlife documentary. Older viewers will recall Chi-Chi as an attraction at London Zoo and the comically obdurate attempt to send her with a Russian plane. An An. Less well known is that Chi-Chi was bought for the zoo by Granada Television, which wanted a star for its series *Zoo Time*. John Wyer's film is essentially a study in media celebrity. Chi-Chi was not the lovable animal everyone thought and she spent most of her time asleep. None of this came across on the screen as the Monty, Desmond and Johnny, helped to turn her into a curiously loon. Wyer playfully teases Chi-Chi against the temper of the 1980s, showing how she became a pawn in the cold war while disabligly resisting the tide of sexual liberation. (7783). Wales: Gardeners' World 10.00 **Victoria Wood**.
 10.30 **Party Election Broadcast** on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (22522).
 10.40 **Newsnight** with Francine Stork (407681).
 11.35 **What the Papers Say** presented by Richard Littlejohn of *The Sun* (278135). 11.50 **Weather** (438681).
 11.55 **Film: The Last of the Good Old Days** (1989). Sharp and amusing Czechoslovak comedy about a snobbish family who think they have made their big time when an airport is built in their back garden. Directed by Jiri Menzel of *Closely Observed Trains*. Subtitled (291488). Ends at 1.45. Wales: (to 12.55) **Arena**.

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ channel. VideoPlus+ is a service which allows you to watch a Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0888 121294 (calls charged at 40p per minute peak, 30p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus, VTN Ltd, Farnborough Road, London W14 9JL. VideoPlus, VideoPlus+ and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Genetec Marketing Ltd.

ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (2289339).
 9.25 **Lucky Laddies**. Word association game show hosted by Lennie Bennett (8957575). 9.55 **Thames News** (6752662).
 10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** Topical discussion chaired by Mike Scott (8218339).
 10.40 **This Morning**. Magazine series (4070555).
 12.10 **Rainbow**. Series for pre-school children (9373514).
 12.30 **ITN Lunchtime News** with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Russell. (Ceeba) (7352556). 1.10 **Thames News** (7772758).
 1.20 **Home and Away**. (Ceeba) (5535575). 1.50 **A Country Practice** (9532575).
 2.20 **Highway to Heaven**. Jonathan the apprentice angel comes to the aid of a lonely writer who is in danger of being murdered. Starring Michael Landon (7820558).
 3.15 **ITN News headlines** (3261049). 3.20 **Thames News headlines** (3251882). 3.25 **The Young Doctors** (8832914).
 3.55 **Cartoon**. *Porky Pig in Party's Super Service* (7) (8266310). 4.00 **Telespin**. Cartoon adventures. 4.25 **Truckers**. Animated adventures based on the book by Terry Pratchett (s) (6257595).
 4.40 **Spitz**. Comedy drama set in a fast-food restaurant (3351865).
 5.10 **Home and Away** (7) (Ceeba) (5535575).
 5.40 **Newsnight**. Evening News with John Suchet. (Ceeba) Weather (370543).
 5.55 **6 O'Clock Live** presented by Frank Bough and Joanna Sheldon. Among tonight's guest is American pop singer Curtis Stigers (124189). 6.55 **The Day**. Twenty-four hours in the life of a member of the public (912204).
 7.00 **The Help Squad**. Viewers' problems solved by Michael Parkinson and his team (7048).
 7.30 **Coronation Street**. Has Betty Turpin pulled her last pint in the Rovers? (Ceeba) (827).
 8.00 **Surgical Spirit**. Last in Peter Larmouth's enjoyable comedy series starring Nicholas McAuliffe as the sharp-tongued consultant. (Ceeba) (3465).
 8.30 **Second Thoughts**. James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham star in the comedy series about a couple contemplating marriage for the second time. In this last of the series their wedding day arrives. Is there any time for second thoughts? (Ceeba) (s) (6204).



Making capital gains: Stride, Kemp and Bennett (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **Growing Rich**.
 ● CHOICE: If you think the story of the three East Anglian girls trying to escape their dull town and awful parents may be paying the penalty of being stretched over too many episodes. Six hours of television, even minor commercial breaks, is a lot to sustain and *Growing Rich* is no *War and Peace*. Having set out her stall early on, Weldon is finding difficulty replenishing it. The spirited and self-confident Rose Kerrigan continues to resist the designs of a horrible capitalist John Stride. The submissive Laura (Caroline Harter) is stuck with a dim husband and two small kids. Over in New Zealand Annie (Claire Hackett) is having doubts about her sheep farmer. Perhaps the trio would have done much better to make their lives, start careers and leave the men up to later. But that would have been a very different series. (Ceeba) (s) (2927).
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. (Ceeba) Weather (503391). 10.35 **LWT News** and weather (584914).
 10.40 **The London Programme: Election 92** - the Capital Decides. This first of four election specials takes a look at the mood in the marginal seats in the South-east (754001).
 11.30 **Dial Midnight**. Phone-in and dining show which also boasts a resident psychic, presented by Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Norman (56881).
 1.05am **The James Whale Radio Show**. More intrepid phone-inners receive more verbal lashing from the acerbic host (2055179).
 2.10 **American Gladiators**. Tests of strength and strategy (4958985).
 3.10 **Chinatown**. Charlie Tuna with the latest news and gossip from the American film scene (3730724).
 3.40 **Raw Power**. Rock videos (s) (837333).
 4.35 **Garrison's Gorillas**. Second world war adventures of an irregular group of American soldiers on duty behind enemy lines in Europe (675334).
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman (36150). Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (3250881).
 9.25 **Schools** (5454731).
 12.00 **Noel's Ark**. Spanish documentary series about the nature and environment of Venezuela (43372).
 12.30 **Business Daily**. The latest news and analysis from the world's financial centres (78285).
 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series (67440).
 2.00 **I Love Lucy** (749). Classic American domestic comedy starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz (4575).
 2.30 **Channel 4 Racing** from Doncaster. Derek Thompson, on the second day of the first season, introduces live coverage of the Holyrood Construction Group Stakes (2.40); the Cystic Fibrosis Research Cup Handicap Stakes (3.10); the Cystic Fibrosis Maiden Stakes (3.40); and the Cystic Fibrosis Jubilee Handicap Stakes (4.10) (93372).
 4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers game (s) (440).
 5.00 **Cutting Edge: Black Panthers**. A repeat of Monday's investigation into the convictions for murder 20 years ago of three members of the Black Panthers, then the strongest radical black power organisation in the United States (7052).
 6.00 **Happy Days**. Nostalgic American high school comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee. Starring Henry Winkler and, in this episode, Robin Williams. (Teletext) (933).
 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. The guests are Rory Bremner, Jeff Koons, a controversial American artist, and, with a song, Kenny Thomas (295).
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Fiona Murch. (Teletext) Weather (747643).
 7.50 **Viewers**. A series of short documentaries which believe are important issues in the forthcoming general election (556333).
 8.00 **Brookside**. (Teletext) (s) (4339).



A staunch communist: founder member Rose Kerrigan (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Short Stories: End of the Party**.
 ● CHOICE: Last November the Communist Party of Great Britain effectively wound itself up after a 70-year history. Membership, which peaked at 56,000 during the second world war, had dwindled to a mere 5,000 as communism collapsed in eastern Europe. The story of the party's rise and fall is mirrored through two of its staunchest supporters. Rose Kerrigan was almost a founder member and at 89 has lost none of her enthusiasm for the cause. Riffing through the family photograph album she recalls a sojourn in the Soviet Union, fundraising for the International Brigade in the Spanish civil war and other political struggles of long ago. Gwyneth Jones, who joined the party in 1958 and like Rose, cannot believe that communism is dead. But the film inevitably has the favour of a wake (3846).
 9.00 **Cheers**. Another libation of laughter from the staff and customers of the celebrated Boston watering hole. (Teletext) (s) (1846).
 9.30 **Flowering Passions**. Anne Parvett meets Suffolk gardener Peggy Cole and talks to Londoner Harvey Grotman about his colourful use of annuals (7). (Teletext) (8930).
 10.00 **Roseanne**. More blue-collar comedy from the wisecracking Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman. (Teletext) (s) (44001).
 10.30 **Whose Line is it Anyway?** Improvised comedy provided by Clive Anderson and his guests who include Ryan Stiles and Greg Proops (s) (6549).
 11.00 **The Word**. The last in the series looks back at the programmes last six months. Those appearing include Barry White, Sean Penn, Lisa Stansfield and Boy George (s) (58885).
 12.00 **Midnight Special**. Shrems McDonald introduces the latest news from the hustings and a party election broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (64859).
 2.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross** (7) (s) (9824). Ends at 3.00.

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
 ● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
 6.00am **Survive** (9458339). 8.30 **The Conquerors** (20533). 10.00 **News** and weather. (Ceeba) (32382). 11.00 **Dayline** (43138). 11.30 **Newsnight** (20301). 1.30 **Good Morning America** (25117). 2.30 **Good Morning America** (25117). 3.30 **Travel Destinations** (79049). 4.30 **Newsnight** - 1970-1991 (7958). 5.00 **Live at Five** (94827). 6.30 **News** (63117). 6.50 **Newsnight** - 1970-1991 (7958). 7.00 **Target** (65338). 12.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 1.30am **News** (74159). 1.45am **Newsnight** (95849). 2.30am **News** (74159). 3.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 4.30am **News** (74159). 5.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 6.30am **News** (74159). 7.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 8.30am **News** (74159). 9.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 10.30am **News** (74159). 11.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 12.30am **News** (74159). 1.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 2.30am **News** (74159). 3.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 4.30am **News** (74159). 5.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 6.30am **News** (74159). 7.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 8.30am **News** (74159). 9.30am **Newsnight** (95849). 10.30am 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